**CIVIL WARS**

**POLI:3505:0001**

**FALL 2016**

**MW 5pm-6:15pm**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Professor Alyssa Prorok

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-3pm or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Today, civil war is the most prevalent, deadly form of violence in the international system. Violent conflict rages all over the world, from Syria and Iraq to Ukraine, Nigeria, and Yemen.  What causes these internal conflicts to break out? Are groups like ISIS and Boko Haram simply motivated by religious extremism?  And what can be done to end the violence and to minimize the costs of these wars? This course examines the causes, conduct, management, and consequences of violent internal conflict. The first part of the class examines factors that make civil wars more or less likely to occur, such as inequality, ethnic conflict, and ideological extremism. The second part of the course explores how civil wars are fought, why they tend to last so long, and how they end. The final section of the class examines the consequences of civil war for civilian populations and tackles questions regarding what the international community can do to prevent civil wars in at-risk countries and manage/peacefully resolve ongoing crises in Syria, Iraq, and beyond.  This course is approved for International Relations majors.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Your course grade will be based on class participation, a mid-term exam, a final exam, and a final group project.

1. Class Participation (25%): Class participation grades will be based upon (1) regular attendance and (2) participation in class discussion, including two current events presentations. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. If you are not in class or are tardy, you will not receive participation points for that day. **You are allowed 2 absences without penalty. After 2 absences, your participation grade will drop 5% per missed class.** Additionally, students are expected to make positive contributions to the class through comments/questions that build on, react to, challenge, or request specific clarifications on the readings. Classes will be more interesting, informative, and successful if you come to class ready to participate. Students will be required to give two current events presentations during the semester. This will involve very briefly (5 min) presenting on a current or recent civil war that relates to the day’s reading topic.

2. Mid-Term Exam (25%): There will be one midterm exam in this class. This exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 19th**, during class. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies. If an emergency arises, you will need to contact me **before** the exam or you will receive zero credit.

3. Final Exam (25%): A final exam will be held during exam week (specific date and time TBA). Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies. If an emergency arises, you will need to contact me **before** the exam or you will receive zero credit.

4. Group Project (25%): Each student will be placed in a group by the instructor. Each group will receive various pieces of information about a (fictitious) pair of actors (a state and a potential rebel group) and will be asked to predict whether or not a civil war will break out based on this information. In this project, students will draw upon the theoretical material covered in class to make their predictions. Each group will be required to make a Power Point presentation during one of the last two class periods on December 5th/7th, in addition to submitting a paper summarizing the group’s findings, and a short paper describing each group member’s experience with the project. More information about the group projects will be posted on the course webpage.

**GRADES**

The grading scale (in percentages) for the course is as follows:

99-100 A+

93-98 A

90-92 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

73-76 C

70-72 C-

67-69 D+

63-66 D

60-62 D-

59 or below F

Challenging a Grade: If for some reason you are dissatisfied with a grade you receive on an assignment and would like to challenge that grade, you must submit a written memo to the instructor explaining why you think the grade is unfair within 48 hours of receiving the grade. Grade challenges will not be accepted after 48 hours, nor will they be accepted in person (i.e., they must be challenged in writing with a written justification for why you believe the grade is too low). The instructor will read the memo, re-read the assignment, and then assign a new grade. The instructor reserves the right to assign a lower grade.

A note on Collaboration: Collaboration is not allowed on the mid-term exam or final exam. You are welcome to study together for the mid-term and final, but all work on the exams themselves should be your own. If you have specific questions about this policy, please feel free to contact me for clarification.

**TEXTBOOKS (Available at Iowa Book)**

T. David Mason and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2016. *What do we Know about Civil Wars?* New York: Rowman and Littlefield.

\*\* Available at IOWA BOOK

Electronic links to journal articles and all other course readings will be provided on the course website (accessible with your Hawk ID at: icon.uiowa.edu).

**CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

You are welcome to use your laptops to take notes during class, although research shows that students tend to retain and comprehend information better when they take hand-written notes (<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/news/releases/take-notes-by-hand-for-better-long-term-comprehension.html>). Cell phones should be turned off during class time.

**RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

Resources available to students: [The Writing Center](http://www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/), the [Speaking Center](http://clas.uiowa.edu/rhetoric/for-students/speaking-center), and [Tutor Iowa](http://tutor.uiowa.edu/)

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| **Course Schedule** | | |
| **Topic/Date** |  | **Readings** |
| **Week 1 (Aug 22-24)** | | |
| Introduction to Study of Civil War | | - *What do we Know*, Chapter 1 (Introduction – Patterns of Armed Conflict Since 1945) |
| **Week 2 (Aug 29-31)** | | |
| Conceptualizing and Measuring Civil War | | - Stathis Kalyvas. 2001. “New and Old Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction?” World Politics 54(1):99-118.  - Nicholas Sambanis. 2004. “What Is Civil War?: Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition.” Journal of Conflict Resolution 48(6):814-831. (**Read ONLY pages 814-831**) |
| **\*\* NO CLASS Aug 31 due to APSA Annual Convention** | |  |
| **Week 3 (Sept 5-7)** | | |
| Why should we study civil war?  **\*\* NO CLASS Sept 5 due to Labor Day** | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 10  - <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/02/south-sudan-portrait-civil-war-refugee-160222104159961.html> |
| **Week 4 (Sept 12-14)** | | |
| Causes of Civil War: Greed versus Grievance and Inequality | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 2  - Muller, Edward and Mitchell Seligson. 1987. Inequality and Insurgency. *American Political Science Review.* 81(2):425-452.  <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/may/18/syria-uprising-reform-bashar-al-assad>  [*http://carnegie-mec.org/publications/?fa=43355&lang=en*](http://carnegie-mec.org/publications/?fa=43355&lang=en) |
| **Week 5 (Sept 19-21)** | | |
| Causes of Civil War: Ethnicity and Religion | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 3  - Monica Toft. 2007. Getting religion? The Puzzling Case of Islam and Civil war. *International Security* 31( 4) : 97–131.  - <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2013/09/04/syrian-wars-got-religion-and-that-aint-good/> |
| **Week 6 (Sept 26-28)** | | |
| Causes of Civil War: State Capacity and Regime Type | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 4  - Hegre, Havard et al. 2001. “Towards a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change, and Civil War, 1816-1992.” American Political Science Review 95(1): 33-48. |
| **Week 7 (Oct 3-5)** | | |
| Causes of Civil War: Natural Resources and Climate | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 13  \*\* In class movie, time permitting: *Blood Diamonds* |
| **Week 8 (Oct 10-12)** | | |
| Causes of Civil War: Natural Resources and Climate | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 14  - <https://www.theguardian.com/vital-signs/2015/mar/09/climate-change-conflict-syria-global-warming> |
| **Week 9 (Oct 17-19)** | | |
| Causes of Civil War: Transnational Dimensions | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 5  - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868> |
| **IN CLASS MIDTERM EXAM: Wednesday, October 19th** | | |
| **Week 10 (Oct 24-26)** | | |
| Ending Civil War: International Intervention | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 6  - Cunningham, David E. 2010. ”Blocking Resolution: How External States can Prolong Civil Wars.” *Journal of Peace Research* 47(2): 115-127.  - <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/22/world/africa/nato-war-in-libya-shows-united-states-was-vital-to-toppling-qaddafi.html?_r=0>  - <http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-us-libya-20140627-story.html> |
| **Week 11 (Oct 31-Nov 2)** | | |
| Ending Civil War: International Efforts | | - <https://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/PIDS/docs/ICCAtAGlanceEng.pdf>  - <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/isis_report.pdf>  - Alyssa Prorok. Forthcoming. “The (In)Compatibility of Peace and Justice.” *International Organization.* **(Read Intro through Theory Section only)**  - In class movie: *Kony 2012* |
| **Week 12 (Nov 7-9)** | | |
| Ending Civil War: Mediation | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 7  - Patrick Regan and Aysegul Aydin. 2006. “Diplomacy and Other Forms of Intervention in Civil Wars.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50(5):736-756.  - <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2015/04/23/what-are-the-prospects-of-preventive-diplomacy-conflict-intensity-might-give-us-a-hint/> |
| **Week 13 (Nov 14-16)** | | |
| Ending Civil War: Sustainable Settlement | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 8  - Walter, Barbara. 1997. The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement. *International Organization.* 51: 335-364.  - <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2016/08/18/could-colombias-peace-process-still-be-derailed/> |
| **Week 14 (Nov 21-23)** | | |
| \*\* NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING BREAK | | - No Assigned Readings |
| **Week 15 (Nov 28-30)** | | |
| Ending Civil War: Peacekeeping | | - *What Do We Know,* Chapter 9  - Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War. *International Studies Quarterly.* 48(2).  - <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/17/world/international-peacekeepers-confront-a-crisis-from-within.html?smid=nytcore-ipad-share&smprod=nytcore-ipad&_r=0>  - <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2015/09/24/enough-with-the-pessimism-about-peacekeeping/> |
| **Week 16 (Dec 5-7)** | | |
| GROUP PRESENTATIONS | | - No Assigned Readings |
| **FINAL EXAM: Date, time, and location TBA** | | |

# CLAS Teaching Policies & Resources — Syllabus Insert (updated August 2016)

# Administrative Home

# The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

# Electronic Communication

# University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](http://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/human-resources/professional-ethics-and-academic-responsibility#15.2), k.11).

# Accommodations for Disabilities

# The University of Iowa is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (which include but are not limited to mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related conditions). A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student, instructor, and SDS. See http://[sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/](https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/) for information.

# Academic Honesty

# All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code): "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the [IOWA Challenge](http://fye.uiowa.edu/youre-here/iowa-challenge). I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook)).

# CLAS Final Examination Policies

# The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

# Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

# Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. (Wenfang Tang, 335-2358) Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS [Academic Policies Handbook](http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook)).

# Understanding Sexual Harassment

# Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI [Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

# Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

# In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the [Department of Public Safety website](http://police.uiowa.edu/emergency-communications).