

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
SPECIAL TOPICS: CIVIL WARS
PS 300, SECTION AP1
FALL 2017
TTh 2:00pm - 3:20pm
317 David Kinley Hall
Credit: 3 hours

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: TTh, 11am-12:30pm 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.

Prerequisite: Six hours of political science, or consent of instructor.

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 (15%): Class participation grades will be based upon regular attendance and participation in class.
 - a. Attendance Policy: Your attendance at all scheduled classes is mandatory and essential for success in the course. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. **If you are not in class or are tardy, your participation grade will drop 5% per missed class.** However, circumstances occasionally occur where you may need to miss a class. Planned Absences: If you need to miss class for a

religious observance, a UI athletic commitment, graduate school interview, or some other legitimate reason, you must contact Professor Prorok at least ONE WEEK before the planned absence, and make arrangements to make up any missed assignments at that time. Otherwise, the absence will be unexcused and you will receive a zero on the missed work. **Unplanned Absences:** If you are seriously ill or experiencing a family emergency and are unable to attend class, inform Professor Prorok via email BEFORE the start of class or the missed class will be unexcused.

- b. **Participation in Class Discussion:** 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. At any time during the semester, if it seems that students are not doing the readings and coming to class prepared, the instructor reserves the right to institute pop reading quizzes. These will be incorporated into the participation grade.

2. **Mid-Term Exam (25%):** There will be one midterm exam in this class. This exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 12th**, 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. This exam is tentatively scheduled for **7:00-10:00pm, Wednesday, December 20th** (subject to confirmation later in the semester). 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 (35%):** 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 the last class **on December 12th**. In addition, each group will submit a 15-20 page paper summarizing the group's findings, and each individual will submit a 1 page paper describing their experience with the project. Both the group paper and individual papers are due on **December 11 by 11:59pm**. More information about the group projects will be posted on the course webpage later in the semester.

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.

TEXTBOOKS (Required)

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

**Electronic links to journal articles and all other course readings will be provided on the course website (accessible at compass2g.illinois.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.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Run, Hide, Fight policy info here: <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency-preparedness/run-hide-fight/>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, e-mail disability@illinois.edu or go to the [DRES website](#). If you are concerned you have a disability-related condition that is impacting your academic progress, there are academic screening appointments available on campus that can help diagnosis a previously undiagnosed disability by

visiting the DRES website and selecting “Sign-Up for an Academic Screening” at the bottom of the page.

If you are interested in obtaining information to improve writing, study skills, time management or organization, the following campus resources are available to all students:

Writer’s Workshop

Undergrad Library

217-333-8796

<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop>

<http://disability.illinois.edu/strategies>

<http://www.counselingcenter.illinois.edu/self-help-brochures/>

Also, most college offices and academic deans provide academic skills support and assistance for academically related and personal problems. Links to the appropriate college contact can be found by going to this website and selecting your college or school: <http://illinois.edu/colleges/colleges.html>

If you are experiencing symptoms of anxiety or depression or are feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or in crisis, you can seek help through the following campus resources:

Counseling Center

206 Fred H. Turner Student Services Building

7:50 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Phone: 333-3704

McKinley Mental Health

313 McKinley Health Center

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Phone: 333-2705

McKinley Health Education offers individual consultations for students interested in learning relaxation and other stress/time management skills, call 333-2714.

** above content on Accommodations taken from <http://disability.illinois.edu/academic-support/instructor-information/examples-disability-statements-syllabus>

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY AND REPORTING

The University of Illinois is committed to combating sexual misconduct. As such, you should know that faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct—which also includes dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking—to the University’s Title IX and Disability Office. What this means is that as your instructor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware. When a report is received, an individual with the Title IX and Disability Office reaches out to provide information about rights and options, including accommodations, support services, the campus disciplinary process, and law enforcement options.

There is an exception to this reporting requirement about which you should be aware. A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors, confidential advisors, and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: wecare.illinois.edu/resources/students/#confidential.

Other information about resources and reporting is available here: wecare.illinois.edu.

** Text from: <http://wecare.illinois.edu/faq/employees/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part4_1-401.html

Course Schedule

Topic/Date

Readings

Week 1 (Aug 29-31)

Introduction to Study of Civil War

- *What do we Know*, Chapter 1 (Introduction – Patterns of Armed Conflict Since 1945)

Week 2 (Sept 5-7)

Why should we study civil war?

- *What Do We Know*, Chapter 10
- <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/02/south-sudan-portrait-civil-war-refugee-160222104159961.html>

Week 3 (Sept 12-14)

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**)

Week 4 (Sept 19-21)

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>

Week 5 (Sept 26-28)

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 (Oct 3-5)

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 10-12)

Causes of Civil War: Natural Resources and Climate

- *What Do We Know*, Chapter 13
- *What Do We Know*, Chapter 14

IN CLASS MIDTERM EXAM: Wednesday, October 12th

Week 8 (Oct 17-19)

Causes of Civil War: Natural Resources and Climate

- Ross, Michael. 2004. “How do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from 13 Cases” *International Organization*.
- <https://www.theguardian.com/vital-signs/2015/mar/09/climate-change-conflict-syria-global-warming>
- ** In class movie, time permitting: *Blood Diamonds*

Week 9 (Oct 24-26)

Causes of Civil War: Transnational Dimensions

- *What Do We Know*, Chapter 5
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>

Week 10 (Oct 31-Nov 2)

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 (Nov 7-9)

Ending Civil War: International Efforts

- <https://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/PIDS/docs/ICCAAtAGlanceEng.pdf>
- https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/isis_report.pdf
- Alyssa Prorok. 2017. "The (In)Compatibility of Peace and Justice." *International Organization*.
- In class movie: *Kony 2012*

Week 12 (Nov 14-16)

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 21-23)

**** NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Week 14 (Nov 28-30)

***** NO CLASSES DUE TO FBA CONFERENCE, BOGOTA COLOMBIA *****

Week 15 (Dec 5-7)

Ending Civil War: Sustainable Settlement & Peacekeeping

- *What Do We Know*, Chapter 8
- *What Do We Know*, Chapter 9
- <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2016/08/18/could-colombias-peace-process-still-be-derailed/>
- 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/>

Optional Readings:

- Walter, Barbara. 1997. The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement. *International Organization*. 51: 335-364.
- Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War. *International Studies Quarterly*. 48(2).

Week 16 (Dec 12)
GROUP PRESENTATIONS

- No Assigned Readings

TENTATIVE FINAL EXAM DATE/TIME: 7:00-10:00pm, Wednesday, December 20th

