**PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: NON-STATE VIOLENT ACTORS**

**POLI:3550:0001**

**(030:169:001)**

**SPRING 2015**

**MW 5:00pm-6:15pm**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Professor Alyssa Prorok

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Office Hours: Mondays, 12-3pm or by appointment

**TEACHING ASSISTANT**

Jungmin Song

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10am-12pm and 2-3pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

What do ISIS, the Free Syrian Army, Sudan’s Janjaweed, the Mexican Los Zetas Cartel, and Al-Qaeda have in common? All are non-state actors that employ violent methods to achieve their goals. This course will examine the emergence, organization, and life-cycles of violent non-state actors. The academic study of violent non-state actors (VNSAs) has blossomed in recent years, driven largely by the increasing prominence of these groups in world politics: some of the most pressing security concerns facing the world’s governments today stem not from other states in the international system, but from non-state actors (e.g. Al-Qaeda for the United States, Hamas and Hezbollah for Israel, the drug cartels for Mexico and Colombia). This course explores the emerging bodies of literature that examine the development of these organizations, their political and military structures, their violent and non-violent activities, the alliances and rivalries they form with other non-state actors, and the processes by which they sometimes evolve into legitimate, non-violent political actors.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

1. Class Participation (15%): Class participation grades will be based upon two criteria: regular attendance in class and participation in class discussion.

First, attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester, at the start of class, and will count as 5% of your final grade. If you are not in class or are tardy, you will not receive points for that day.

Second, at the start of each class, we will spend 15-20 minutes discussing current events that relate to the topic of the class. At the start of each class, two-three students will present a summary of something from that day/week’s news that relates to the course’s topic. Each student will do this twice throughout the semester. This will count as 10% of your final grade.

Finally, this class will be discussion based; I will not be lecturing at you every week! Therefore, 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, March 11th**, 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.

5. Group Presentation (15%) and Research Paper (20%): You will be assigned to groups at the start of the semester. As a group, you will choose a single NSVA to do a presentation and write a research paper on. As a group, you will become experts on your chosen NSVA, researching its recruitment patterns, organizational structure, relationships with civilians, states, and other NSVAs, its strategy and tactics, etc. I will distribute more detailed instructions for the group presentations and the final paper early in the semester. Presentations will take place during the last week of class, and the final paper will be due on **Friday, May 8th by 11:59pm** via the appropriate dropbox folder on the course ICON page.

If for some reason you are dissatisfied with the final grade you receive on your paper, you may submit a written memo to the instructor explaining why you think the grade is unfair. This memo must be submitted within 48 hours of receiving the paper grade. The instructor will read the memo, re-read the paper, and then assign a new grade. The instructor reserves the right to assign a lower grade after rereading the paper a second time.

**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

A note on Collaboration: Collaboration is not allowed on the mid-term 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. Collaboration is allowed (and expected) on the group presentation and final research paper. When the paper is turned in, you will be asked to write an individual memo to the professor, explaining what aspects of the presentation and paper you contributed to, and assessing the performance of your other group members. Further details will be provided during the semester. If you have specific questions about collaboration, please feel free to contact me for clarification.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Mampilly, Zachariah Cherian. 2011. *Rebel Rulers: Insurgent Governance and Civilian Life During War.* Cornell University Press.

\*\* This text is 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 phone ringers should be turned off during class time.

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| **COURSE SCHEDULE** | | |
| **Topic/Date** | | **Readings** |
| **Week 1 (Jan 21st)** | | |
| Introduction |  | None |
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| **Week 2 (Jan 26th – 28th)** | | |
| Introduction to Non-State Violent Actors | | - Browse the UCDP Conflict Encyclopedia (<http://www.ucdp.uu.se/gpdatabase/search.php>) and the START center’s Terrorism Database (<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>)  - Sullivan and Bunker. 2002. “Drug Cartels, Street Gangs, and Warlords.” *Small wars and Insurgencies.*  - Ahram. 2011. “Origins and Persistence of State-Sponsored Militias.” *Journal of Strategic Studies.*  - Fulloon. 2013. “Private Military Companies: The New Condottieri.” *Social Alternatives.* |
| **Week 3 (Feb 2nd – 4th)** | | |
| Participation and Recruitment | | - Gurr, Ted Robert. 1970. *Why Men Rebel*, Chapter 2 (ebook available at lib.uiowa.edu).  - Lichbach, MI. 1995. *The Rebel’s Dilemma*. Selected Sections |
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| **Week 4 (Feb 9th - 11th)** | | |
| Participation and Recruitment | | - Kalyvas, Stathis and Matthew Kocher. 2007. “How Free is Free Riding in Civil Wars? Violence, Insurgency, and the collective Action Problem.” *World Politics.*  - Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2008. “Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War.” *American Journal of Political Science* 52(2). |
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| **Week 5 (Feb 16th)** | | |
| Participation and Recruitment | | - Weinstein, Jeremy. 2005. “Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*  - Krueger, Alan and Jitka Maleckova. “Does Poverty cause Terrorism? The economics and the education of suicide bombers.” *The New Republic,* June 2002. |
| **\*\*\* NO CLASS WEDNESDAY, FEB 18th due to the International Studies Association Annual Convention** | | |
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| **Week 6 (Feb 23rd – 25th)** | | |
| Participation and Recruitment &  Political and Military Organization of NSVAs | | - Ness, Cindy. 2007. *Female Terrorism and Militancy: Agency, Utility and Organization.* \*\*SELECTED CHAPTER (ebook available at lib.uiowa.edu)  - Weinstein, Jeremy. 2007. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence.* Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 5: Governance) |
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| **Week 7 (March 2nd – 4th)** | | |
| Political and Military Organization of NSVAs | | - Jung, Danielle F., and David A. Lake. 2011. “Markets, Hierarchies, and Networks: An Agent-Based Organizational Ecology.” *American Journal of Political Science* 55(4): 972–90.  - Johnston, Patrick. 2008. “The Geography of Insurgent Organization and Its Consequences for Civil Wars: Evidence from Liberia and Sierra Leone.” *Security Studies* 17(1): 107–37. |
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| **\*\*\* Group Presentation/Paper Topics Due to the Instructor by Monday, March 2nd at 11:59pm** | | |
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| **Week 8 (March 9th – 11th)** | | |
| NSVA relationships with other Actors | | - Bapat, Navin A., and Kanisha D. Bond. 2012. “Alliances Between Militant Groups.” *British Journal of Political Science* 42(04): 793–824. |
| **IN CLASS MIDTERM EXAM: Wednesday, March 11th** | | |
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| **Week 9 (March 16th – 18th)** | |  |
| **NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK** | | |
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| **Week 10 (March 23rd – 25th)** | | |
| NSVA relationships with other Actors | | - Fjelde, Hanne, and Desirée Nilsson. 2012. “Rebels Against Rebels Explaining Violence Between Rebel Groups.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56(4): 604–28.  - Akcinaroglu, Seden. 2012. “Rebel Interdependencies and Civil War Outcomes.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* |
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| **Week 11 (March 30th – April 1st)** | | |
| NSVA relationships with other Actors | | - Carter, David B. 2012. “A Blessing or a Curse? State Support for Terrorist Groups.” *International Organization* 66(1): 129–51.  - Salehyan, Idean et al. 2011. “Explaining External Support for Insurgent Groups.” *International Organization* 65(4): 709-744. |
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| **Week 12 (April 6th – 8th)** | | |
| Tactics, Treatment of Civilians, and Rebel Governance | | - Mampilly, Zachariah Cherian. 2011. *Rebel Rulers: Insurgent Governance and Civilian Life During War.* Cornell University Press. (SELECTED CHAPTERS). |
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| **Week 13 (April 13th – 15th)** | | |
| Tactics, Treatment of Civilians, and Rebel Governance | | - Heger, Lindsay. 2014. “Votes and Violence: Pursuing terrorism while navigating politics.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(1).  - Kalyvas, S. N. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. (SELECTED CHAPTERS) |
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| **Week 14 (April 20th – 22nd)** | | |
| Tactics, Treatment of Civilians, and Rebel Governance &  Evolution of NSVAs | | - Weinstein, Jeremy. 2007. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence.* Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 6: Violence)  - Driscoll, Jesse. 2012. “Commitment Problems or Bidding Wars? Rebel Fragmentation as Peace Building.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56(1). |
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| **Week 15 (April 27th – 29th)** | | |
| Evolution of NSVAs |  | - Bakke, Kristin M., Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham, and Lee JM Seymour. 2012. “A Plague of Initials: Fragmentation, Cohesion, and Infighting in Civil Wars.” *Perspectives on Politics* 10(2): 265–83.  - Woldemariam, Michael H. 2014. “Battlefield Outcomes and Rebel Cohesion: Lessons from the Eritrean Independence War.” *Terrorism and Political Violence.* |
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| **Week 16 (May 4th – 6th)** | | |
| Group Presentations |  | - No Readings |
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| **Final Paper DUE: Friday, May 8th by 11:59pm** | | |
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| **FINAL EXAM: Date, time, and location TBA** | | |

**Teaching Policies & Procedures**

**Political Science DEO: Sara Mitchell, 341 Schaeffer Hall**

**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 [*Student Academic Handbook.*](http://www.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 Manua*l, [III.15.2](http://www.uiowa.edu/~our/opmanual/iii/15.htm#152). Scroll down to k.11.)

**Accommodations for Disabilities**

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See [www.uiowa.edu/~sds/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/) for more information.

**Academic Honesty**The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences expects all students to do their own work, as stated in the [CLAS Code of Academic Honesty](http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code). Instructors fail any assignment that shows evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, also reporting the student's name to the College. A student reported to the College for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

**CLAS Final Examination Policies**

Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

**Making a Suggestion or a Complaint**Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook.](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/x/#5) **DEO: Sara Mitchell, 343 SH, 335-2358**

**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.uiowa.edu/~eod/policies/sexual-harassment-guide/index.html) 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 Public Safety [web site](http://police.uiowa.edu/stay-informed/emergency-communication/).

**Student Resources:** The Writing Center [www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/) and the Campus Information Center’s Tutor Referral Services <http://imu.uiowa.edu/cic/> at the IMU.

\*These CLAS policy and procedural statements have been summarized from the web pages of the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/..) and The University of Iowa [*Operations Manual*](http://www.uiowa.edu/~our/opmanual/index.html).