TEXTS

All readings for this course are on Blackboard or online through links provided in the syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the study of civil conflict through an exploration of the entire life-cycle of civil wars focusing on onset/causation, dynamics and typologies, duration, third-party intervention and settlement/termination. The emphasis of this course is on the settlement of civil conflict. The second half of the syllabus focuses on this phase of civil conflicts with particular emphasis on third-party intervention. However, understanding the entire life-cycle is critical for assessing settlement potential. Throughout the course you will be asked to draw connections and apply concepts from literature assigned in prior lessons.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

SS476 has the following course objectives (aligned with International Affairs program objectives):

2. Read critically from a wide spectrum of academic, popular, and policy-oriented literature in civil conflict and settlement to understand key arguments and debates in the field. Apply standards of social scientific analysis to critique the logic, argumentation, and evidence in IR literature.
3. Conduct research by developing an interesting and relevant research question that is grounded in theory and by conducting empirical research to answer the question.
4. Gain knowledge about civil conflict including theories of onset/dynamics/settlement/termination, cases, trends, and the relationship between international relations, civil conflict and conflict settlement.
5. Assess and develop policies to settle civil conflicts by analyzing the causes and drivers of conflict, evaluating prior attempts at resolution, identifying viable options that exist now or may exist in the future. Assess the prospects for successful settlements.
6. Communicate clear and effective analysis and arguments about complex international issues verbally and in writing.
### COURSE OVERVIEW

#### Day 2: Section K2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSN</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20 Aug</td>
<td>Course Intro and What is Civil War?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>22 Aug</td>
<td>State of Civil War in the World</td>
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#### BLOCK I: Concepts and Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSN</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>26 Aug</td>
<td>Grievance and Revolution</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>29 Aug</td>
<td>Ethnicity (Ancient vs Modern Hatred)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5 Sep</td>
<td>Ethnicity 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>11 Sep</td>
<td>Economics (Greed &amp; Nat. Resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>State Capacity and Feasibility</td>
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#### BLOCK II: Causes of Civil War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSN</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>Insurgency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
<td>Drop: Analysis Paper I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>24 Sep</td>
<td>Indiscriminate violence / Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>Who Fights and Why?</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: State and Non-State Legitimacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4 Oct</td>
<td>Militias in Civil Wars</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>8 Oct</td>
<td>Civil War Duration</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10 Oct</td>
<td>WPR</td>
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#### BLOCK III: Dynamics of Civil Wars

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<th>LSN</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>Counterinsurgency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>17 Oct</td>
<td>Peace Ops 1: What are Peace Ops?</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Peace Ops 2: Do Peace Ops Work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
<td>Liberal Peace Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>29 Oct</td>
<td>Ripeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>31 Oct</td>
<td>Conflict Transformation/Civ Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>Power Sharing</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>7 Nov</td>
<td>Bargaining and Commitment</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>12 Nov</td>
<td>Partition and Federalism</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>15 Nov</td>
<td>DDR</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>19 Nov</td>
<td>Drop: Simulation Prep</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>26 Nov</td>
<td>On-Campus Trip Section: Civil Conflict Simulation</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>2 Dec</td>
<td>Gender and Civil Wars</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>6 Dec</td>
<td>Emerging Issues in Civil Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td>The Future of Civil War and Simulation Reflection</td>
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**GRADED EVENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>LSN</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>1-30</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Cadets will contribute substantively to class discussions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Instructor Points</td>
<td>1-30</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Instructor points will be determined by your individual instructor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Sep</td>
<td>Analysis Paper I: Conflict Cause</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Students will apply the material from Block I in a paper that analyzes the origins of conflict for their case. (1200 words)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Oct</td>
<td>WPR</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>An in-class exam covering Blocks I-III</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>Analysis Paper II Proposal</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Students will propose a research question about a topic from Block III (settlement/termination).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Nov</td>
<td>Pre-Simulation Paper</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>Students will use course material to assess the prospects for settlement of the simulation case.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Nov</td>
<td>Simulation</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Cadets will be evaluated on their preparation for and performance in the negotiation simulation. This will include a peer evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Dec</td>
<td>Analysis Paper II (in lieu of TEE)</td>
<td>Post-30</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Students will apply the material from the course and from their own research to answer their research question.</td>
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**TOTAL** | 1000

**BLOCK I: CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS**

**LSN 1: COURSE INTRO AND WHAT IS CIVIL WAR?**

*Lesson Objectives:*
1. Course overview and introductions
2. Define civil war.
3. Why is labeling a conflict a “civil war” often controversial? Why does it matter?
4. Why should we study civil war?
5. What are the themes of the course and the subfield?

*Readings:*
1. Syllabus.

**LSN 2: State of Civil War in the World**

*Lesson Objectives:*
1. What trends exist in civil war occurrence over the years and across regions?
2. How does the state of the international system impact civil wars (causation, dynamics, termination)?
3. How has the character of civil wars changed over time?
4. How do differences in the character of civil war impact the study of causation, dynamics, termination?

Readings:

BLOCK II: CAUSES OF CIVIL WAR

LSN 3: Grievance and Revolution
Lesson Objectives:
1. Define Gurr's Relative Deprivation theory/model.
2. What are the merits of studying civil war as a discreet phenomenon or on a spectrum of political violence?
3. What levels of analysis does Gurr's RD theory employ?
4. What is the relationship between civil war and revolution?
5. What does Tilly see as the cause of revolution?

Readings:

LSN 4: Ethnicity (Ancient vs Modern Hatreds)
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is the "ancient hatreds" thesis?
2. What are the implications of ancient hatreds for civil war causation, termination, and for intervention policy?
3. What are political or ethnic entrepreneurs?
4. What are some counterarguments to the "ancient hatreds" thesis?

Readings:

LSN 5: Ethnicity 2
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is an ethnic security dilemma and what causes it to occur?
2. What causal mechanisms might explain ethnic conflict?
3. How theories of ethnicity as a cause for civil war relate to theories of grievance and revolution?

Readings:

LSN 6: Economics (Greed & Natural Resources)
Lesson Objectives:
1. What are the economic causes for civil war?
2. What is the impact of natural resources on civil war onset and dynamics?
3. What is the conflict trap?

Readings:

LSN 7: State Capacity and Feasibility
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is/are the cause(s) of civil war according to Fearon and Laitin?
2. How does the Fearon/Laitin article connect to previous lessons?
3. What are the implications of the state capacity/feasibility theories for civil war onset for civil war prevention/termination?
4. What is the feasibility thesis?

Readings:

BLOCK III: DYNAMICS OF CIVIL WARS

LSN 8: Insurgency
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is "the identification problem?"
2. What links does this lesson have with Fearon/Laitin's work?
3. What are the implications of insurgency (as a technology of rebellion) for conflict termination?

Readings:

LSN 9: Drop
- Drop to complete Analysis Paper I
LSN 10: Indiscriminate Violence/Terrorism
Lesson Objectives:
1. Why is indiscriminate violence used in civil wars?
2. Who uses indiscriminate violence in civil wars?
3. Is indiscriminate violence effective?
4. How does indiscriminate violence impact civil war dynamics?

Readings:
2. Findlay and Young - Terrorism and Civil War: 285-288

LSN 11: Who Fights and Why?
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is the collective action problem and why does it suggest participation in civil wars is puzzling?
2. How do Kalyvas and Kocher respond to LSN obj #1?
3. Which factors explain "who fights" in civil wars, which do not?

Readings:

LSN 12: Guest Lecture: State and Non-State Legitimacy
Lesson Objectives:
1) What is “legitimacy?”
2) What is(are) the source(s) of legitimacy?
3) Why does legitimacy matter in civil wars?

Readings:
- To be distributed

LSN 13: Militias in Civil Wars
Lesson Objectives:
1. What purpose do pro-state militias serve?
2. What impact do militias have on civil war dynamics (duration, patterns of violence) and termination?

Readings:

LSN 14: Civil War Duration
Lesson Objectives:
1. What are the long term trends in civil war duration?
2. What factors impact the duration of civil wars and why?
3. How do veto players impact duration?
4. How do external interventions impact civil war duration?

Readings:

LSN 15: WPR

LSN 16: Counterinsurgency
Lesson Objectives:
1. How do counterinsurgent techniques align with theories about insurgency (lesson 8)?

Readings:

BLOCK IV: INTERVENTIONS AND SETTLEMENT

LSN 17: Peace Operations 1: What are Peace Operations?
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is peacekeeping? What are its three pillars?
2. How has peacekeeping evolved since the Cold War? What is wider peacekeeping?
3. How does peacekeeping differ from peace enforcement?
4. What led Ghali to write Agenda for Peace and its supplement?

Readings:

LSN 18: Peace Operations 2: Do Peace Operations Work?
Lesson Objectives:
1. In what ways does peacekeeping "keep the peace?"
2. What factors enable success in peacekeeping (and what causes failure)?
3. How can peacekeeping be improved?

Readings:
2. Kreps, Sarah. Why does peacekeeping succeed or fail? Peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone

**LSN 19: Liberal Peace Building**

*Lesson Objectives:*
1. What is the "liberal peace consensus?"
2. What challenges exist to liberal peace building and why?
3. What alternatives exist to liberal peace building?

*Readings:*

**LSN 20: Ripeness**

*Lesson Objectives:*
1. What is meant by the term "ripeness?"
2. What makes a conflict ripe for resolution?
3. How can outside actors influence the ripeness of a conflict?

*Readings:*

**LSN 21: Conflict Transformation and Civil Society**

*Lesson Objectives:*
1. What is conflict transformation?
2. How can ethnic groups overcome “symbolic politics”?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of civil society inclusion?

*Readings:*

**LSN 22: Power Sharing**

*Lesson Objectives:*
1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of power sharing?
2. What is consociational democracy?

*Readings:*

**LSN 23: Bargaining and Commitment**

*Lesson Objectives:*
1. What is the bargaining model of war?
2. How can commitment problems thwart settlements?
3. What factors are essential to ensure parties stay commitment to their agreements in settlements?

Readings:

LSN 24: Partition and Federalism
Lesson Objectives:
1. Why is partition sometimes thought the only viable solution to civil conflicts?
2. What is required for successful partition to occur?
3. What are the costs and risks of partition?

Readings:

LSN 25: Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is DDR? What are its components?
2. How can DDR enhance conflict resolution?
3. Why does DDR sometimes fail?

Readings:

LSN 26: Drop: Simulation Prep

LSN 27: On-Campus Trip Section – Conflict Simulation
Lesson Objectives and Readings:
1. See Pre-Simulation Paper assignment

LSN 28: Gender and Civil War
Lesson Objectives:
1. How does gender impact civil war onset, dynamics, and termination?

Readings:

LSN 29: Emerging Issues in Civil Wars
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is relationship between climate change and conflict?
2. What is the impact of transnational jihadism and civil war?
3. In what ways do jihadi rebels fit or defy previous rebel typologies?

Readings:

LSN 30: The Future of Civil War and Simulation Reflection
Lesson Objectives:
1. What is the relationship between the structure of the international system and civil wars?
2. What is the impact of international norms on civil wars?
3. What do recent developments in international politics tell us about the future of civil wars?

Readings: