

GVPT 409P: Seminar in International Relations and World Politics: Conflict in the International System

Fall 2015

Professor David Cunningham

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10-12 and by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an overview on conflict in the international system. Students will examine different types of conflict—including state-to-state war, civil war, terrorism, and non-violent conflict. The course will describe trends in the incidence of conflict, as well as theories about the causes of conflict and conflict resolution. In addition, we will examine three conflicts—the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, and Sudan—in some detail.

Course Requirements:

As a seminar course, student participation is crucial to this class. Students are expected to have done all of the reading before class, to attend, and to participate actively in class. There are three main assignments in this course—one midterm exam, a final exam and a research paper. The final exam will be cumulative, although weighted more heavily toward the latter portion of the course. The research paper will be a 10-12 page paper. The paper will be due December 1, and all students will be required to submit a written topic proposal to me by October 20. Additionally, students will have an opportunity to submit a rough draft of the paper on November 10 and get comments on it.

Grading:

Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%
Research Paper	35%
Participation	10%

Course Readings:

There are two required books for this class: *Sixteen Million One* by Patrick Regan and *Winning the War on War* by Joshua Goldstein. Each of these books is available in the bookstore. In addition to these required texts, there are a number of required readings that are articles or selections from books. These readings will be posted on the course page on elms.

Religious Observance

By the end of September students must provide in writing a request for a make up of exams and other required assignments if the syllabus indicates a date when you are unable to attend due to a specific religious observance.

Absence due to illness.

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. Students are required to contact me by email prior to class time to indicate that they have an illness or an injury and will be missing class. Students must then, on the day that they return to class, provide written documentation verifying the illness/injury. Students will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. if they have not provided this documentation.

Academic Integrity

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards applicable to all undergraduate students, and you are responsible for upholding these standards as you complete assignments and take exams in this course. Please make yourself aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information see www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu. If any student is believed to be in violation of the Code of Academic Integrity, they will be referred to the Student Honor Council.

Students with disabilities.

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide us with documentation or have not had that documentation reviewed by DSS before October 1.

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Course Schedule

Part I: Types of Conflict

Week 1: Trends in Conflict

September 1: Introduction

September 3: Trends in Political Violence

Reading:

- Goldstein, *Winning the War on War*, Chapters 1 & 2
- Pettersson, Therése, and Peter Wallensteen. "Armed conflicts, 1946–2014." *Journal of Peace Research* 52.4 (2015): 536-550.

Week 2: Types of Conflict I

September 8: Interstate War

Reading:

- Bremer, Stuart A. "Who Fights Whom, When, Where, and Why?" In John A. Vasquez, Ed., *What Do We Know About War?* Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000. Pages 23-36.
- Brecher, Michael, Patrick James, and Jonathan Wilkenfeld. "Escalation and War in the Twentieth Century: Findings from the International Crisis Behavior Project." In John A. Vasquez, Ed., *What Do We Know About War?* Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000. Pages 37-56.

September 10: Civil War

Reading:

- Regan, *Sixteen Million One*. Chapters 1-6

Week 3: Types of Conflict II

September 15: Civil War & Ethnic Conflict

Reading:

- Connor, Walker. "A nation is a nation, is a state, is an ethnic group is a..." *Ethnic and racial studies* 1.4 (1978): 377-400.

September 17: Terrorism

Reading:

- Hoffman, Bruce. *Inside Terrorism* Revised and Expanded Edition. New York: Columbia University Press. (2006): 1-41.
- LaFree, Gary, Laura Dugan and Erin Miller. *Putting Terrorism in Context: Lessons from the global terrorism database*. Routledge University Press (2015): 27-69.

Week 4: Types of Conflict III

September 22: Protest and Non-Violence

Reading:

- Stephan, Maria J., and Erica Chenoweth. "Why civil resistance works: The strategic logic of nonviolent conflict." *International Security* 33.1 (2008): 7-44.

September 24: Genocide and Mass Killing

Reading:

- Valentino, Benjamin. "Final solutions: the causes of mass killing and genocide." *Security Studies* 9.3 (2000): 1-59.

Week 5: Cases of Conflict: DRC

September 29: Background to the Conflict

Reading:

- Reyntjens, Filip. *The Great African War: Congo and Regional Geopolitics, 1996-2006*. Cambridge University Press (2009): 1-66.

October 1: Africa's First World War

Reading:

- Reyntjens, Filip. "Briefing: the second Congo War: more than a remake." *African Affairs* (1999): 241-250.
- Reyntjens, Filip. "Briefing: The Democratic Republic of Congo, from Kabila to Kabila." *African Affairs* (2001): 311-317.
- Lemarchand, Rene. "The fire in the Great Lakes." *Current History* 98.628 (1999): 195.

Week 6: Cases of Conflict: Syria

October 6: The so-called "Arab Spring"

Reading:

- Kurzman, Charles. "The Arab spring uncoiled." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 17.4 (2012): 377-390.
- Hinnebusch, Raymond. "Introduction: understanding the consequences of the Arab uprisings—starting points and divergent trajectories." *Democratization* 22.2 (2015): 205-217.

October 8: Civil war in Syria

Reading:

- Lynch, Marc, Deen Freelon and Sean Aday. BLOGS AND BULLETS III: SYRIA'S SOCIALLY MEDIATED CIVIL WAR. USIP Report.
- Fearon, James D. "Syria's Civil War." *The Political Science of Syria's Civil War*. POMEPS Studies 5. December 13, 2013: 13-18.
- Pearlman, Wendy. "Understanding Fragmentation in the Syrian Revolt." *The Political Science of Syria's Civil War*. POMEPS Studies 5. December 13, 2013: 40-42.

Week 7: Midterm Exam

October 13: Preparation for midterm

October 15: Midterm

Part II: Causes of Conflict

Week 8: Structural Causes

October 20: Democracy

Reading:

- Maoz, Zeev, and Bruce Russett. "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946–1986." *American Political Science Review* 87.03 (1993): 624-638.
- Hegre, Håvard, et al. "Toward a democratic civil peace? Democracy, political change, and civil war, 1816–1992." *American Political Science Association*. Vol. 95. No. 01. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Paper proposal due Tuesday, October 20

October 22: The Liberal Peace

Reading:

- Oneal, John R., and Bruce M. Russett. "The classical liberals were right: Democracy, interdependence, and conflict, 1950–1985." *International Studies Quarterly* 41.2 (1997): 267-294.
- Gleditsch, Nils Petter. "The Liberal Moment Fifteen Years On." *International Studies Quarterly* 52.4 (2008): 691-712.

Week 9: Individual Motivations

October 27: Economics

Reading:

- Collier, Paul. "Rebellion as a quasi-criminal activity." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44.6 (2000): 839-853.
- Reno, William. *Warlord Politics and African States*. Boulder: Lynne Reiner, Chapters 1-2.

October 29: Discrimination

Reading:

- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. "Why do ethnic groups rebel? New data and analysis." *World Politics* 62.01 (2010): 87-119.

Week 10: Repression and External Intervention

November 3: Repression and Dissent

Reading:

- Davenport, Christian. "State repression and political order." *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 10 (2007): 1-23.

November 5: The External Dimension

Reading:

- Salehyan, Idean. *Rebels without Borders: Transnational Insurgencies in World Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1-60.

Part III: Conflict termination and resolution

Week 11: Peacekeeping

November 10: Foundations of peacekeeping

Reading:

- Goldstein, *Winning the War on War*, Chapters 3-5

Rough Draft of paper due Tuesday, November 10 (optional)

November 12: Does peacekeeping work?

Reading:

- Goldstein, *Winning the War on War*, Chapters 6-8

Week 12: Mediation

November 17: Barriers to Negotiation

Reading:

- Zartman, I. William. "The timing of peace initiatives: Hurting stalemates and ripe moments 1." *The Global Review of Ethnopolitics* 1.1 (2001): 8-18.
- Walter, Barbara F. "The critical barrier to civil war settlement." *International organization* 51.03 (1997): 335-364.

November 19: Mediation

Reading:

- Gartner, Scott Sigmund. "Deceptive results: Why mediation appears to fail but actually succeeds." *Penn St. JL & Int'l Aff.* 2 (2013): 27-37.
- Beardsley, Kyle. "Using the right tool for the job: Mediator leverage and conflict resolution." *Penn St. JL & Int'l Aff.* 2 (2013): 57-65

Week 13: Justice and Accountability

November 24: Post-conflict Justice

Reading:

- Vinjamuri, Leslie, and Jack Snyder. "Law and Politics in Transitional Justice." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18.1 (2015): 303-328.

November 26: No class (Thanksgiving)

Week 14: Cases of Conflict: South Sudan

December 1: Two civil wars in Sudan

Reading:

- Iyob, Ruth and Gilbert M. Khadiagala. *Sudan: The Elusive Quest for Peace*. Boulder: Lynne Reiner, 13-78.

Paper due Tuesday, December 1

December 3: Independence and continued conflict

Reading:

- Rolandsen, Øystein H. "Another civil war in South Sudan: the failure of Guerrilla Government?" *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 9.1 (2015): 163-174.

Week 15: Conclusion

December 8: Trends in Conflict II

Reading:

- Goldstein, *Winning the War on War*, Chapters 9-12

December 10: Course wrap-up

Final Exam: Friday, December 18: 1:30-3:30