

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

**Spring 2017**

**Professor David Cunningham**

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**Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-3:00 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 May 9, and all students will be required to submit a written topic proposal to me by March 30. Additionally, students will have an opportunity to submit a rough draft of the paper on April 18 and get comments on it.

## **Grading:**

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

## **Course Readings:**

There is one required book for this class: *Winning the War on War* by Joshua Goldstein which is available in the bookstore. In addition to this required text, 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 February 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](http://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 March 1.

**Copyright Notice**

The course lectures and other materials are copyrighted. They may not be reproduced for anything other than personal use without written permission from me.

**Other Policies**

The Dean for Undergraduate Studies has a website with other policies that are general to all UMD courses, the link for which is here: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>.

**Course Schedule****Part I: Types of Conflict****Week 1: Introduction**

January 26: Introduction

## **Week 2: Types of Conflict I: Interstate War**

January 31: Interstate War I

Reading:

- Holsti, Kalevi J. *The State, War, and the State of War*. Cambridge University Press, 1996. Pages 1-40.

February 2: Interstate War II

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.

## **Week 3: Types of Conflict II: Civil War**

February 7: Civil War

Reading:

- Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Erik Melander, and Henrik Urdal. "Introduction—Patterns of Armed Conflict since 1945," in T. David Mason and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, eds., *What do we know about civil wars?* Chapter 1.

February 9: Civil War and 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.
- Seymour, Lee J. M. and Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham, "Identity Issues and Civil War: Ethnic and Religious Divisions" in T. David Mason and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, eds., *What do we know about civil wars?* Chapter 3.

## **Week 4: Types of Conflict III**

February 14: 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.

February 16: 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: Types of Conflict IV**

February 21: 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.

### **NO CLASS FEBRUARY 23**

### **Week 6: Cases of Conflict: DRC**

February 28: Background to the Conflict

Reading:

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

March 2: Africa's First World War

Reading:

- Severine Autesserre, *The Trouble with the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding* (2010): 41-83.

### **Week 7: Cases of Conflict: Syria**

March 7: The Arab Uprisings

Reading:

- Marc Lynch. 2012. *The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*. Chapters 4 & 5.

March 9: Civil war in Syria

Reading:

- Marc Lynch. 2016. *The New Arab Wars*, Chapter Four

## **Week 8: Midterm Exam**

March 14: Preparation for midterm

March 16: Midterm

## **Part II: Causes of Conflict**

### **Week 9: Structural Causes**

March 28: 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.

March 30: 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.

### **Paper proposal due Thursday, March 30**

### **Week 10: Individual Motivations**

April 4: 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.

April 6: 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 11: Repression and External Intervention**

April 11: Repression and Dissent

Reading:

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

April 13: 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 12: Mediation**

April 18: 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.

### **Rough Draft of paper due Tuesday, April 18 (optional)**

April 20: 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: Peacekeeping**

April 25: Foundations of peacekeeping

Reading:

- Goldstein, *Winning the War on War*, Chapters 1-5

April 27: Does peacekeeping work?

Reading:

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

### **Week 14: Cases of Conflict: South Sudan**

May 2: Two civil wars in Sudan

Reading:

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

May 4: 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: Winning the War on War?**

May 9: Trends in Conflict

**Paper due Tuesday, May 9**

Reading:

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

May 11: Toward the future?

**Final Exam: Saturday, May 13: 8:00-10:00**