

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

Fall 2017

Professor David Cunningham

Office: Chincoteague 3117C

Email: dacunnin@umd.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:30 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 conflicts in Central Africa, the Middle East, and the Korean Peninsula in 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 November 30, and all students will be required to submit a written topic proposal to me by October 26. Additionally, students will have an opportunity to submit a rough draft of the paper on November 9 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 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.

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**

August 29: Introduction

August 31: No class

Week 2: Types of Conflict I

September 5: 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 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.

Week 3: Types of Conflict II

September 12: 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.

September 14: Terrorism

Reading:

- LaFree, Gary, Laura Dugan and Erin Miller. *Putting Terrorism in Context: Lessons from the global terrorism database*. Routledge University Press (2015): 27-69.
- Kydd, Andrew H., and Barbara F. Walter. "The strategies of terrorism." *International Security* 31.1 (2006): 49-80.

Week 4: Types of Conflict III

September 19: Genocide and Mass Killing

Reading:

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

September 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.

Week 5: Conflict in the DRC

September 26: Background to the Conflict

Reading:

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

September 28: 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 6: Conflict in the Middle East I

October 3: The Arab Uprisings

Reading:

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

October 5: Autocracy, Protest and Repression in Syria

Reading:

- Wedeen, Lisa. "Acting "as if": symbolic politics and social control in Syria." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 40.3 (1998): 503-523.
- Wendy Pearlman, "Love in the Syrian Revolution." *Huffington Post*

Week 7: Conflict in the Middle East II

October 10: The Syrian Civil War

Reading:

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

October 12: Libya, Yemen, and other Middle East conflicts

Reading:

- TBA

Week 8: Midterm Exam

October 17: Preparation for midterm

October 19: Midterm

Part II: Causes of Conflict

Week 9: Structural Causes

October 24: 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.

October 26: 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, October 26

Week 10: Individual Motivations

October 31: 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.

November 2: 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

November 7: Repression and Dissent

Reading:

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

November 9: The External Dimension

Reading:

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

Rough Draft of paper due Thursday, November 9 (optional)

Part III: Conflict termination and resolution

Week 12: International Conflict Management

November 14: Mediation

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.
- 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

November 16: Peacekeeping I

Reading:

- Walter, Barbara F. "The critical barrier to civil war settlement." *International organization* 51.03 (1997): 335-364.
- Goldstein, *Winning the War on War*, Chapters 1-5

Week 13: International Conflict Management II

November 21: Peacekeeping II

Reading:

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

Week 14: Conflict and potential conflict on the Korean Peninsula

November 28: A history of conflict

Reading:

- TBA

November 30: Nuclear weapons and preventive diplomacy

Reading:

- TBA

Paper due Thursday, November 30

Week 15: Winning the War on War?

December 5: Trends in Conflict

Reading:

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

December 7: Toward the future?

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 13: 8:00-10:00