

# POLSCI 389: Political Violence: Civil Wars and Terrorism

Summer 2018

**GSI:** Roya Talibova

**Office Hours:** M, T 1:00-2:00PM

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Signup sheet (24 hours in advance): <https://doodle.com/poll/ivk986xtzsrsmvsk>

This course offers an introduction to the study of forms of political violence in the modern world. The lectures and readings are organized into four modules: (1) causes of asymmetric conflicts, (2) violence during civil wars, (3) causes and consequences of terrorism, and (4) how civil wars end. In the first module, we will review a series of debates drawn from research on the causes of civil wars, and use them to explain the outbreak of a number of major civil conflicts. In the second module, we examine the dynamics of violence during wars in an attempt to identify motivations for fighting, civilian targeting, and mass violence. The third module will look into causes and consequences of terrorism, including proper definition of terrorist groups and effectiveness of terror attacks. In the final module, we will focus on conflict resolution, particularly the role of military intervention, peacekeeping, and long-term effects of violence.

While there are no formal requirements for the course, students who have a basic familiarity with international relations literature, geography, and history will have a slight advantage. Ability to read and to understand quantitative social science research will be a useful skill in this class. Students are also strongly encouraged to stay informed of current events, especially those that relate to conflict and security. This can be done by reading a major daily newspaper or a serious weekly news magazine.

## Course Grading

Your grade in class will be determined by a weighted average of your performance on a set of assignments throughout the course, as well as your attendance and participation.

Each student is expected to submit six one-page response memos throughout the course. These memos should be a brief review of the readings for a given date. Unlike a regular summary, the memo should demonstrate critical thinking about the arguments and the strengths and weaknesses of the readings. Memos will be graded with a ✓, ✓+, or ✓-. Memos are due by 2:00PM the day the reading will be discussed in class.

Students are also required to submit an 800-1,000-word op-ed piece for a newspaper dealing with one of the topics addressed in class. The op-ed should draw attention to a current issue and must make an explicit argument about a specific policy that is or is not working. The op-ed is due in class on Thursday, August 2.

During the last two weeks of the course, each small group will present a 15-minute briefing on an active, ongoing civil war or an active terrorist group. Each student's grade will be based in part on evaluations by the other members of the group.

The final exam will be a series of take-home essays. The exam will be distributed at 6:00PM on Wednesday, August 15, and will be due on Saturday, August 18 by 6:00PM.

**Grade Distribution:**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Attendance     | 5%  |
| Participation  | 5%  |
| Response memos | 15% |
| Op-ed article  | 20% |
| Presentations  | 25% |
| Final exam     | 30% |

**Participation:** One of the best ways to build your understanding of new material is to actively discuss and work out the answers yourselves. I expect everyone to contribute to discussion on a regular basis. If you feel that you cannot actively participate, see me as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements.

**Attendance:** Attendance in this course is mandatory. In order to effectively participate, it is essential that you attend class meetings. You are responsible for any material you missed due to an unexcused absence; office hours do not replace sections missed due to unexcused absences. A note from a doctor or some other person of authority (documenting a family emergency or medical attention for an illness) is required for an excused absence. You will lose 1/5 of your attendance grade for each unexcused absence. Students with family responsibilities, athletic commitments, or religious conflicts should discuss those with me before missing class.

**Communication:** The best way to get in touch with me is by signing up for office hours. My office hours are on Mondays and Tuesdays between 1:00-2:00PM in my office, 7750 Haven Hall. I strongly suggest you take advantage of these times to ask clarification questions, get feedback, prepare for papers and exams, or just to chat. If you cannot make office hours due to a time conflict or another unavoidable circumstance, contact me about setting up an appointment. I will do my best to accommodate.

**Technology in the classroom:** The use of laptops in the classroom is a privilege; please treat it accordingly. Answering your cell phone or texting during class is disrespectful to your classmates and the instructor. Please turn your phone off during class time.

**Special Accommodations:** If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the *Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)* office to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://ssd.umich.edu>)

typically recommends accommodations through a *Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA)* form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

**Academic Honesty:** The LSA academic community, like all communities, functions best when its members treat one another with honesty, fairness, respect, and trust. The College holds all members of its community to high standards of scholarship and integrity. To accomplish its mission of providing an optimal educational environment and developing leaders of society, the College promotes the assumption of personal responsibility and integrity and prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct. Academic dishonesty may be understood as any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community. Conduct, without regard to motive, that violates the academic integrity and ethical standards of the College community cannot be tolerated. The College seeks vigorously to achieve compliance with its community standards of academic integrity. Violations of the standards will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences and disciplinary action. See [examples of academic misconduct](#).

**Student Mental Health and Wellbeing:** The University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact *Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)* at (734) 764-8312 and <https://caps.umich.edu/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in schools on both North and Central Campus. You may also consult *University Health Service (UHS)* at (734) 764-8320 and <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/mentalhealthsvcs>, or for alcohol or drug concerns, see [www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources](http://www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources). For a listing of other mental health resources available on and off campus, visit: <http://umich.edu/health-medicine> and <http://umich.edu/~mhealth>.

## Grade Grievances

If you believe a grade you have received is unfair or in error, you will need to do the following:

- Wait 24 hours after receiving the grade before approaching me.
- Provide an explanation in writing for why the grade you received was unfair or in error. You should provide evidence in support of your appeal from course materials.
- I will review your appeal and, if a regrade is granted, review the relevant area of the assessment again. The revised grade will be entered in your final course grade.
- If you believe the primary instructor's response fails to address your claim of unfairness or error, you may petition the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies at the latest within the first five weeks of classes following the completion of the course. You must convey in writing the basis for the complaint, with specific evidence in support of the argument that the grade either was given in error or was unfairly determined. This formal complaint also should summarize the outcome of the initial inquiry to the course instructor, indicating which aspects are in dispute. Within three weeks of the

receipt of the petition, the DUS will determine whether to convene the Undergraduate Affairs Committee, the student, and the instructor(s) for a formal hearing.

## Course Calendar

| Date    | Content   |
|---------|---|
| June 28 | <b>Intoductory Meeting - Discussion of Course Goals and Syllabus</b>  |
| July 2  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Defining “civil war,” “terrorists,” and “insurgents”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. “What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition,” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 48(6): 814-858</li> <li>• Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2001. “‘New’ and ‘Old’ Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction?” <i>World Politics</i> 54(1): 99-118</li> </ul>  |
| July 3  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Do resources cause civil wars?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ross, Michael. 2004. “How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases,” <i>International Organization</i> 58(1): 35-67</li> <li>• Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. “Greed and Grievance in Civil War,” <i>Oxford Economic Papers</i> 56(4): 563-595</li> <li>• Humphreys, Macartan. 2005. “Natural Resources, Conflict, and Conflict Resolution,” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 49(4): 508-537.</li> </ul>   |
| July 5  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Do ethnic hatreds cause civil wars?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fearon, James, and David Laitin. 2003. “Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War,” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97(1): 75-90.</li> <li>• Wucherpfennig, Julian, Nils W. Metternich, Lars-Erik Cederman, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2012. “Ethnicity, the state, and the duration of civil war,” <i>World Politics</i> 64(1): 79-115.</li> <li>• Denny, Elaine K., and Barbara F. Walter. 2014. “Ethnicity and civil war,” <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 51(2): 199-212.</li> </ul> |
| July 9  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Does nationalism (or national identity) cause civil wars?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Van Evera, Stephen. 1994. “Hypothesis on Nationalism and War,” <i>International Security</i> 18(4): 5-39.</li> <li>• Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. 2010. “Why Do Ethnic Groups Rebel? New Data and Analysis,” <i>World Politics</i> 62(1): 87-119.</li> <li>• Lyall, Jason. 2010. “Are Co-Ethnics More Effective Counter-Insurgents? Evidence from the Second Chechen War,” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 104(1): 1-20.</li> </ul>        |

| Date    | Content   |
|---------|---|
| July 10 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Does gender inequality cause civil wars?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sen, Amartya. 1990. "More Than 100 Million Women Are Missing," <i>New York Review of Books</i>, December 20: 61-66.</li> <li>• Caprioli, Mary. 2005. "Primed for Violence: The Role of Gender Inequality in Predicting Internal Conflict," <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 49(2): 161-178.</li> <li>• Den Boer, Andrea and Valerie M. Hudson. 2002. "A Surplus of Men, A Deficit of Peace: Security and Sex Ratios in Asia's Largest States," <i>International Security</i> 26(4): 5-38.</li> </ul>  |
| July 12 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Does the environment cause civil wars?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hendrix, Cullen S. and Idean Salehyan. 2012. "Climate change, rainfall, and social conflict in Africa," <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 49(1): 35-50.</li> <li>• Buhaug, Halvard. 2011. "Climate Not to Blame for African Civil Wars," <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 107(38): 16477-16482.</li> </ul>   |
| July 16 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motivations for fighting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mueller, John. 2000. "The Banality of Ethnic War," <i>International Security</i> 25(1): 42-70.</li> <li>• Lichbach, Mark. 1994. "What makes Rational Peasants Revolutionary? Dilemma, Paradox, and Irony in Peasant Collective Action," <i>World Politics</i> 46(3): 383-418.</li> <li>• Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy Weinstein. "Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil Wars," <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 52(2): 436-455.</li> </ul>   |
| July 17 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Why do armed groups attack civilians?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Azam, Jean-Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2002. "Violence against Civilians in Civil Wars: Looting or Terror?" <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 39(4): 461-485.</li> <li>• Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy Weinstein. 2006. "Handling and Mismatching Civilians in Civil War," <i>American Political Science Review</i> 100(3): 429-447.</li> <li>• Lyall, Jason. 2009. "Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks? Evidence from Chechnya," <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 53(3): 331-362.</li> <li>• Wood, Reed M. "Rebel Capability and Strategic Violence Against Civilians," <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 47(5): 601-614.</li> </ul> |
| July 19 | NO CLASS  |

| Date     | Content   |
|----------|---|
| July 23  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mass Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valentino, Benjamin, Paul Huth and Dylan Balch-Lindsay. 2004. “Draining the Sea’: Mass Killing and Guerrilla Warfare” <i>International Organization</i> 58(2): 375-407.</li> <li>• Harff, Barbara. 2003. “No Lessons Learned from the Holocaust? Assessing Risks of Genocide and Political Mass Murder since 1955” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97(1): 57-73</li> <li>• Zhukov, Yuri. 2015. “Population Resettlement in War: Theory and Evidence from the Soviet Archives,” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 59(7): 1155-1185.</li> </ul> |
| July 24  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Psychological Explanations for Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leithead, Alastair. 2011. “Stanford prison experiment continues to shock,” <i>BBC</i></li> <li>• Milgram, Stanley. 1974. “Obedience to Authority,” Harper: New York. Chapter 1.</li> </ul>   |
| July 26  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wartime Sexual Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood, Elisabeth. 2009. “Armed Groups and Sexual Violence: When is Wartime Rape Rare?” <i>Politics and Society</i> 37(1): 131-161.</li> <li>• Cohen, Dara Kay. 2013. “Explaining Rape during Civil War: Cross-National Evidence (1980-2009)” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 107(3): 461-477.</li> </ul>   |
| July 30  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>What is a terrorist group?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kydd, Andrew and Barbara Walter. 2006. “The Strategies of Terrorism,” <i>International Security</i> 31(1): 49-80.</li> <li>• Crenshaw, Martha. “The Psychology of Political Terrorism,” <i>Political Psychology</i></li> </ul>  |
| July 31  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>What causes terrorism?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abadie, Alberto. 2006. “Poverty, Political Freedom, and the Roots of Terrorism,” <i>American Economic Review</i> 96(2): 50-56.</li> <li>• Kurth Cronin, Audrey. 2002. “Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism,” <i>International Security</i> 27(3): 30-58.</li> <li>• Li, Quan. 2005. “Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents?,” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 49(2): 278-297.</li> </ul>   |
| August 2 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Does Terrorism Work?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pape, Robert. 2003. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97(3): 343-361.</li> <li>• Abrahms, Max. 2006. “Why Terrorism Does Not Work,” <i>International Security</i> 31(2): 42-78.</li> <li>• Stanton, Jessica A. 2013. “Terrorism in the Context of Civil War,” <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 75(4): 1009-1022</li> </ul>   |

| Date      | Content   |
|-----------|---|
| August 6  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Why Do States Lose Asymmetric Wars?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mack, Andrew. 1975. "Why Big Nations Lose Small Wars: The Politics of Asymmetric Conflict," <i>World Politics</i> 27(2): 175-200.</li> <li>• Lyall, Jason and Isaiah Wilson. 2009. "Rage Against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars," <i>International Organization</i> 63(1): 67-106.</li> <li>• Balcells, Laia, and Stathis N. Kalyvas. 2014. "Does Warfare Matter? Severity, Duration, and Outcomes of Civil Wars," <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 58(8): 1390-1418.</li> </ul> |
| August 7  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Does peacekeeping work?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fortna, Page. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War," <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 48(2): 269-292.</li> <li>• Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, And Megan Shannon. 2013. "United Nations Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection in Civil War," <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 57(4): 875-891.</li> </ul>   |
| August 9  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Roots and Consequences of International Intervention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kuperman, Alan. 2008. "The Moral Hazard of Humanitarian Intervention: Lessons from the Balkans," <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 52(1): 49-80.</li> <li>• Krain, Matthew. 2005. "International Intervention and the Severity of Genocides and Politicides," <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 49(3): 363-387.</li> <li>• Walter, Barbara. 2007. "The Critical Barrier to Civil Wars Settlement," <i>International Organization</i> 51(3): 335-364.</li> </ul>                         |
| August 13 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Aftermath of Conflict</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blattman, Christopher. 2009. "From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda," <i>American Political Science Review</i> 103(2): 231-247.</li> <li>• Balcells, Laia. 2012. "The Consequences of Victimization on Political Identities: Evidence from Spain," <i>Politics and Society</i> 40(3): 311-347.</li> <li>• Bellows, John and Edward Miguel. 2009. "War and Local Collective Action in Sierra Leone," <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> 93(11-12): 1144-1157.</li> </ul>                         |
| August 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Presentations</li> </ul>   |
| August 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Presentations</li> </ul>   |