

# Civil Wars

## POLS 233

**Time:** Tuesday/Thursday 10-11:30 PM

**Class Location:** Observatory Library

**Office Hours:** Tues 4:15-5:30 PM/Wednesday 12-1:30 PM OR by appointment (email me)

**Office Location:** Roberts 202

**Instructor Email:** cchiego@haverford.edu

Since the end of World War II, there have been many more civil wars within states than interstate wars between states. The Correlates of War Project claims only 23 interstate wars from 1945 to 1997, but 108 civil wars within that time frame (Mason 2009). Civil Wars have also been deadlier than interstate wars within that same period, with 3.3 million battle deaths in interstate wars compared to 11.4 million battle deaths in civil wars (Sarkees 2000).

Furthermore, after a brief decline at the end of the Cold War, the number of civil wars in the world has increased since the mid-2000s. What explains this trend and what can other states and international organizations do to help address the problem of wars that may not directly involved them?

The goal of this course is to introduce students to a specific subject within the broader field of Political Science and to use this subject as an opportunity to explore the current state of social science research in great depth. It will also develop three major sets of skills. The first set concerns reading, understanding, and synthesizing academic research. The second is making an academic argument. You will not be required to write a full academic-style article in this class, but you will learn the tools to do so and complete the framework out of which a larger article (or potential senior thesis) could grow. The third is presentation and briefing skills. These are invaluable for a range of future positions from government service to private sector to academia. Students will become an expert on several different past and present civil wars and make periodic presentations to the class.

### **Required Books**

None! All readings will be posted online.

### **Haverford College Statement on Accommodations:**

*Haverford College is committed to providing equal access to students with a disability. If you have (or think you have) a learning difference or disability – including mental health, medical, or physical impairment - please contact the Office of Access and Disability Services (ADS) at hc-ads@haverford.edu. The Coordinator will confidentially discuss the process to establish reasonable accommodations.*

*Students who have already been approved to receive academic accommodations and want to use their accommodations in this course should share their verification letter with me and also make arrangements to meet with me as soon as possible to discuss their specific accommodations. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.*

*It is a state law in Pennsylvania that individuals must be given advance notice if they are to be recorded. Therefore, any student who has a disability-related need to audio record this class must first be approved for this accommodation from the Coordinator of Access and Disability Services and then must speak with me. Other class members will need to be aware that this class may be recorded.*

### **Feedback and Contact**

For other issues that might arise during the course like major illnesses or unexpected issues that will cause you to be absent, please email me as soon as possible. In fact, for most issues or questions that you might have in the course, emailing the instructor is an excellent idea. The earlier any issues are brought to my attention the more likely it is that we can work with anything that might arise. Furthermore, I am always eager to hear student feedback (particularly for a very small course like this) and happy to adjust my teaching as warranted.

### **Electronics Policy**

You may bring your laptops to class and use them to look up relevant materials and take notes. Any other non-relevant use, however, particularly use that distracts other classmates, is not allowed.

### **Evaluation**

**Class Engagement (25%):** As this is a small course, every student needs to come prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. Each student will also select one day in which that student will “lead” class discussion (for at least the first 45 minutes of class) and should come prepared with handouts and/or a presentation to help lead the debate. Furthermore, each student will also “brief” the class at three points throughout the semester on their Current Civil War Case Study (see below) with any ongoing updates from the conflict and connection to the conflict.

**Current Case Study (15%):** This is a brief (4-5 pages, approximately 1000 to 1200 words) case study paper that applies the concepts, questions, and debates from this class to a Civil War that is currently ongoing. You will present the initial presentation of this case to the class in February (after which the paper is due), then add updates in March and April as well. [Briefing on 2/13, paper DUE on 2/18, then later briefing updates on 3/5 and 4/7.

**Historical Case Study (15%):** This is a brief (4-5 pages, approximately 1000 to 1200 words) case study paper that applies the concepts, questions, and debates from this class to a Civil War that has ended. You should be prepared to present your findings on this to the class in a 5-10

minute presentation and respond to questions from the audience. This is DUE on 3/19, just after the midterm of the course.

The key for both of these case studies is LINKING them to concepts from the course, not just going through the details of the case. Think about to what extent does this case illustrate author X's argument or refute author Y's argument and such.

### **Literature Review Paper (First Cut, 20%)**

This is a 12-15 page paper that addresses some part of the political science literature on Civil Wars. It could be pointing out a "gap" in the literature, it could be synthesizing the literature in a new way, it could be a way of addressing a longstanding debate in the literature in a new light, or it could look at how recent events have shed new light on older studies. Take a look at the articles in the Annual Review of Political Science (searchable at <https://www.annualreviews.org/> and then downloadable from the Haverford Library website) for an idea of what these might look like on a larger scale and please also consult the paper "Doing a Literature Review" by Jeffrey W. Knopf (which is assigned below on the syllabus too). Note that this is NOT a rough draft; this should be a fully edited paper that is your best attempt.

First Cut DUE on 3/31

### **Literature Review Paper (Second Cut and Revision Letter, 25%)**

After you turn in your First Cut, you will receive a "Revise-and-Resubmit" letter that will detail a number of suggested changes and improvements to your original paper. These may require a good deal of revision or additional research. You will then spend time revising and then resubmitting your paper along the side guidelines as before. You should also include a 2-4 page "author's note" that specifically addresses all the main comments raised in the Revise-and-Resubmit feedback.

Second Cut + Revision Letter DUE on 5/15

### **Weekly Readings** (authors of each reading are in **bold**)

Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Reading and Writing Academic Articles

1/21: Introductory Class

1/23: Reading Political Science Articles and Becoming Acquainted with Ongoing Global Conflict

**Green**, Amelia Hoover. "How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps." 2013.

<https://www.ameliahoovergreen.com/uploads/9/3/0/9/93091546/howtoread.pdf>

**Council on Foreign Relations**: Global Conflict Tracker

<https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/?category=us>

**Int'l Crisis Group**: 10 Conflicts to Watch for 2020

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/global/10-conflicts-watch-2020>

**Political Violence @ a Glance Blog**, Category-Civil War:

<https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/category/civil-war/>

Week 2: What is a Civil War?

1/28: **Sambanis**, Nicholas. "What Is A Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 48, 6 (December 2004), pp. 814-858 [please focus your reading on the first 17 pages, up through Sambanis' own definition]

**Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP)** (browse through their website and their datasets):

<https://ucdp.uu.se/> and please take a look at their main codebook:

<https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/ucdpprio/ucdp-prio-acd-191.pdf>

**Correlates of War** Program (browse through their website and their datasets):

<https://correlatesofwar.org/> and please take a look at their main codebook for intrastate wars:

[https://correlatesofwar.org/data-sets/COW-war/intra-state-war-data-codebook/at\\_download/file](https://correlatesofwar.org/data-sets/COW-war/intra-state-war-data-codebook/at_download/file)

1/30: Should we look at only Civil Wars or Interstate Wars too?

**Cunningham, David E. and Lemke, Doug.** "Combining Civil and Interstate Wars"

*International Organization* (67), Summer 2013.

**Miller**, Steve. "Reading a Regression Table: A Guide for Students." 2014.

<http://svmiller.com/blog/2014/08/reading-a-regression-table-a-guide-for-students/>

Week 3: Why do Civil Wars begin? Greed, Grievance, and Opportunity

2/4: **Collier, Paul and Hoeffler, Anke.** 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." Oxford Economic Papers.

**Kalyvas, Stathis.** "New" And "Old" Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction?" *World Politics*, 2001, Vol.54(1), pp.99-118

2/6: **Fearon, James and Laitin, David.** "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War" *American Political Science Review*. February 2003.

Week 4: Case Studies: Africa

2/11 **Elbadawi, Ibrahim and Sambanis, Nicholas.** "Why Are There So Many Civil Wars in Africa? Understanding and Preventing Violent Conflict" *Journal of African Economies* (December 2000)

Congo and Biafran Conflict (readings TBA)

2/13 Student Current Case Study Presentations; Discussion of Literature Reviews

**Ross, Michael L.** 2006. "A Closer Look at Oil, Diamonds, and Civil War." *Annual Review of Political Science*

\*\*Current Case Study paper Due 2/18\*\*

Week 5: Ethnic Conflict

2/18: **Posen**, Barry. "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict." *Survival* 35, no.1

**Kaufmann**, Chaim. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars." *International Security*, Spring 1996.

2/20: Case Study: Former Yugoslavia + Joe Biden and Iraq (Readings TBA)

Week 6: Civil Wars as Bargaining Failures

2/25: **Walter**, Barbara. "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement," *International Organization*, 1997. [see also her 2009 *Annual Review* article on bargaining and civil wars]

**Reiter**, Dan. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politics*. 2003.

2/27: **Fearon**, James. "Why do some civil wars last so much longer than others?" *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 41, No. 3, (May, 2004),

Week 7: How do Civil Wars end?

3/3: **Hartzell, Caroline and Hoddie, Matthew**. "Institutionalizing Peace: Power Sharing and Post-Civil War Conflict Management." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 47, No. 2 (Apr., 2003), pp. 318-332.

3/5: \*\*Student Briefings on Current Civil Wars\*\*

**Toft, Monica Duffy**. "Ending Civil Wars: A Case for Rebel Victory?" *International Security* 2010

Week 8: Spring Break

Week 9: Peacekeeping and Civil Wars

3/17: **Fortna, Virginia Page and Howard, Lise Morjé**. 2008. "Pitfalls and Prospects in the Peacekeeping Literature." *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 11: 283-301.

"Peacekeeping: does it work?"

<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2014/08/12/peacekeeping-works-better-than-you-may-think/>

3/19: Student Historical Case Study Presentations; additional case study on Peacekeeping TBA

Week 10: Inside Civil Wars; Recruitment and Violence

3/24: **Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy Weinstein**. 2008. "Who Fights?: The Determinants of Participation in Civil War." *American Journal of Political Science* 52(2):436-455.

3/26: **Dara Kay Cohen, Amelia Hoover Green, and Elisabeth Jean Wood**, "Wartime Sexual Violence Misconceptions, Implications, and Ways Forward"

<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/resources/SR323.pdf>

LITERATURE REVIEW FIRST CUT DUE 3/31

Week 11: Terrorism and Civil Wars

3/31: **Abrahms, Max**. "Why terrorism does not work." *International Security* 31.2 (2006): 42-78.

**Thomas, Jakana**, 2014. "Rewarding Bad Behavior: How Governments Respond to Terrorism in Civil War" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 58, No. 4 (October 2014), pp. 804-818

4/2: **Pape, Robert A.** "The strategic logic of suicide terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97.3 (2003): 343-361.

Week 12: Counterinsurgency

4/7: \*\*Student Briefings on Current Civil Wars\*\*

**Long, Austin.** Rand, "COIN Theory: what are insurgencies and how does one fight them?"

[https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2006/RAND\\_MG482.pdf](https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2006/RAND_MG482.pdf)

[Guest Speaker?]

4/9: **Lyll, Jason.** "Does indiscriminate violence incite insurgent attacks? Evidence from Chechnya." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53.3 (2009): 331-362.

**Kocher, Matthew, Pepinsky, Thomas, and Kalyvas, Stathis.** "Aerial Bombing and Counterinsurgency in the Vietnam War"

Week 13: Breaking the Conflict Trap: Avoiding Repeat Civil Wars

4/14: **Walter, Barbara F.** "Does conflict beget conflict? Explaining recurring civil war."

*Journal of peace research* 41.3 (2004): 371-388.

4/16: [Potential Instructor Presentation]

Week 14: Outside Interventions

4/21: **Anke Hoefler.** "Can International Interventions Secure the Peace?" April 15, 2013

**Reed M. Wood and Christopher Sullivan.** "Doing Harm by Doing Good? The Negative Externalities of Humanitarian Aid Provision during Civil Conflict"

4/23: International Law and Interventions (Readings TBA)

Week 15: Summary and Future Areas of Research (Climate and Drones)

4/28: **Busby, Joshua W.,** "Who Cares about the Weather? Climate Change and U.S. National Security," *Security Studies*

Drones Reading TBA

4/30: **Cederman, Lars-Erik, and Manuel Vogt.** "Dynamics and logics of civil war." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61.9 (2017): 1992-2016.

\*\*\*Final Paper Due May 15th at Noon\*\*\*