Course Description

This course deals with the systematic, theoretical study of violent political conflict. We will use a very general approach and cover a broad range of topics including civil war, protest/rebellion, state terror, democratization, and international human rights law.

Course Objectives

This is not a history course. The purpose of this course is not to gain familiarity with any particular event. Rather, the goal is to understand what a social-scientific approach to studying violent conflict entails, how the study of violent conflict has developed and advanced in the late 20th century, and how scholarly work in this field can be usefully applied to many forms of conflict and provide insight into real world events.

Required Reading

There will be no textbook in this class. For the most part we will be reading relatively recent research on violent conflict, and will thus rely heavily on articles in peer-reviewed journals. There will be 1-2 readings assigned for each class. All readings will be made available online. Students are expected to read all of the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them. Some of the readings contain statistical analysis and other mathematical modeling techniques. For these readings, students will not be expected to understand all of the technical details, but should still come to class prepared to discuss the day’s readings.

Grades

Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Students can review their exams during office hours or by appointment. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 20%
Exam 3: 20%
Response Essay: 20%
Class Participation: 20%
Grade Distribution:

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<thead>
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<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
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<td>59 and below</td>
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Examinations

Exams will be multiple choice with two essay questions. The exams will cover the assigned readings and lecture. There will be three exams including the final. Only the final exam will be cumulative.

Participation

Students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss it in class. 20% of your grade will be determined by your participation in class discussion. Every week a different group of students will be responsible for preparing discussion questions based on the assigned readings.

Response Essay

Each week select students will be required to submit a critical essay (2 pages, single spaced) on the week’s readings. The essay should summarize the authors’ main points AND evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the argument (and evidence, if any) being presented.

Makeup Exams

Unexcused absences from exams will result in a zero for the assignment. To qualify for a make-up test a student must provide advance notice and/or documentation of illness, required university activity, or personal emergency.

Course Website and Email

Can be accessed through www.elc.uga.edu. You will need to check this site regularly for any syllabus updates or for posted readings. Announcements may also be sent out via email. It is your responsibility to check blackboard for syllabus updates.
Syllabus Change Policy

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.

University Honor Code/Academic Honesty Policy

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Other Policies

The classroom is a forum for (pertinent) discussion. Everyone is encouraged to partake in classroom discussions. Dialogue should be lively, civil and engaging. All points of view are to be tolerated (within reason). In order to facilitate such a dialogue, students are required to turn off and put away cell phones, iPods, any other electronic devices (laptops are okay) and unrelated materials (i.e. from other classes) during class.

Reading Schedule

Methodological Foundations, States and The Organization of Violence

Friday, July 5: Syllabus Review, class overview. No reading.


State.” *Comparative Political Studies* 21: 45-65.


Review for Exam 1

**Collective Action, Discontent, and Rebellion**

Monday, July 15: **Exam 1**


**Patterns of Violence in Civil War, Ethnic Conflict, Terrorism**


Review for Exam 2

Tuesday, July 23: **Exam 2**


State Terror, International Human Rights Law


Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Thursday, August 1, 1:00 p.m.