

Professor Sara Mitchell
307 Schaeffer Hall
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Fall 2009
15 SH
TR 10:55am-12:10pm

**THE CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND
MANAGEMENT OF CIVIL WARS
030:178, Section 1**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course exposes students to the burgeoning academic literature on civil wars, concentrating on the causes, duration, management, and consequences of civil wars. The first part of the class examines factors that make civil wars more or less likely to occur, such as greed, grievance, ethnic conflict, economic development, income, and regime type. These factors are studied in the context of several case studies of prominent civil wars. The second part of the course focuses on factors that increase or decrease the length or duration of civil wars including rebel group motivations, rebel group financing, misperceptions, commitment problems, military factors, and state capacity. The final section of the class seeks to understand the frequency and success of third party conflict management in civil wars and the broader internal and external consequences of civil wars, including economic growth, economic development, public health, education, and democratization.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your course grade is based on class participation, a research paper, and two exams.

1. Class Participation (30%): This course will be run as an upper division seminar. Each class period (27 in total) will involve a discussion of the readings assigned for that day. You can gain or lose class participation points each day. To gain points, you need to make a positive contribution to class participation. Positive contributions are comments that build on, react to, challenge, or request clarification on the reading. Students may raise their hands and contribute to discussion, although remember that only those comments directly relevant to the readings will earn points. Your final participation grade will be based on the total number of positive contributions (minus any points lost, see below), and will be calculated as follows: A (13 or higher), B (9 – 12), C (5 – 8), D (3 – 4), F (< 3).

If no one volunteers, then I will randomly call on people. Each person will be assigned a number in the first week of class, which corresponds to a poker chip in a bowl. If your chip is drawn, then you must answer the question I raise. You will have the opportunity to pass once if you are unprepared for a particular question, although on the second strike, you will lose one point from your overall participation total. In short, if you are called upon and unprepared or absent, you will lose 1 point that day. But you will only lose points if your chip is drawn. Also, because your chip goes back in the bowl, such sampling with replacement suggests that you can be called upon more than once in a given class. This system will obviously work best if everyone volunteers and I never have to use the chips!

You may wonder why I have created such a system. The answer is that I want you to do the reading, so I have given you an incentive to do it. All of the papers and exams will make extensive use of the assigned readings, thus it is in your best interest to read everything. Given the size of the class, it will be necessary to create a seating chart the first week of class. Please make sure you find the seat you want for the rest of the semester by Thursday, August 27th.

2. Research Paper (30%): You will write a research paper that applies concepts and theories discussed in the course to a specific civil war. The paper will cover the history and the causes of the war and each student will be assigned to a different civil war. I will distribute a description of the paper on the first day of class and post a copy on the course website as well.

Deadline #1 Students submit list of top five civil war preferences to Professor Mitchell in class by Tuesday, September 1st.

Deadline #2 (First Draft of History Section): Due on Wednesday, October 7th in Professor's Mitchell's mailbox in room 341 Schaeffer Hall by 5:00pm.

Deadline #3 (First Draft of Theory Section): Due on Wednesday, November 11th in Professor's Mitchell's mailbox in room 341 Schaeffer Hall by 5:00pm.

Deadline #4 (Final Paper): Due on Wednesday, December 9th in Professor's Mitchell's mailbox in room 341 Schaeffer Hall by 5:00pm

If for some reason you are dissatisfied with the final grade received on your paper, you may submit a written memo to the instructor explaining why you think the grade is unfair, along with the graded copy of your paper. This memo must be submitted within 2 weeks of receiving the paper grade. The instructor will read the memo, re-read the paper, and then assign a new grade. The instructor reserves the right to assign a lower grade after rereading the paper a second time.

3. Examinations (40%, 2 @ 20% each): There are two exams in this course, a midterm exam and a final exam (not comprehensive). The midterm exam is scheduled on Thursday, October 15th and the final exam is scheduled on Wednesday, December 16th from 7:30-9:30am. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies. If an emergency arises, you will need to contact me **before** the exam or you will receive zero credit.

The grading scale (in percentages) for the course is as follows:

99-100	A+	93-98	A	90-92	A-
87-89	B+	83-86	B	80-82	B-
77-79	C+	73-76	C	70-72	C-
67-69	D+	63-66	D	60-62	D-
59 or below	F				

TEXTBOOKS (Available at Iowa Bookstore)

Collier, Paul et al. 2003. *Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy*. The World Bank.

Collier, Paul and Nicholas Sambanis. 2005. *Understanding Civil War, Volume 2: Europe, Central Asia, and Other Regions*. The World Bank.

Fortna, Virginia Page. 2008. *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices after Civil War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Electronic links to journal articles can be found on the course website (www.saramitchell.org) and they are marked with an asterisk (*).

Also Recommended:

Beah, Ishmael. 2007. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. Sarah Crichton Books.

Walter, Barbara F. 2002. *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

Class Schedule

Topic

Required Reading

Tuesday, August 25th

Course Introduction
Watch part of “Blood Diamond”

None

Thursday, August 27th

The Conflict Trap

Collier (2003), pages 1-49

Tuesday, Sept. 1st

The Conflict Trap

Collier (2003), pages 51-91

Thursday, Sept. 3rd

No class, APSA conference

Collier (2003), pages 93-140

Tuesday, Sept. 8th

The Conflict Trap

Collier (2003), pages 140-188

SECTION II: THE CAUSES OF CIVIL WAR

Thursday, Sept. 10th

Greed vs. Grievance

*Collier, Paul and Hoeffler, Anke 2004. “Greed and Grievance in Civil War.” *Oxford Economic Papers*. 56: 563-595.

Collier & Sambanis, Chapter 2

Tuesday, Sept. 15th

Ethnicity & Insurgency

*Fearon, James D. and David Laitin. 2003. “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.” *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.

Collier & Sambanis, Chapter 9

Thursday, Sept. 17th

Resources and Civil War

*Ross, Michael L. 2004. “How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases.” *International Organization* 58: 35-67.

Tuesday, Sept. 22nd

Resources and Civil War

*Oyefusi, Aderoju. 2008. “Oil and the Probability of Rebel Participation Among Youths in the Niger Delta of Nigeria.” *Journal of Peace Research* 45(4): 539-555.

*Lujala, Paiva, Nils Petter Gleditsch, and Elisabeth Gilmore. 2005. “A Diamond Curse? Civil War and a Lootable Resource.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4): 538-562.

<u>Class Schedule</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Thursday, Sept. 24 th	The Geography of Civil War	*Buhaug, Halvard and Scott Gates. 2002. "The Geography of Civil War." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 39(4): 417-433. Collier & Sambanis, Chapter 6
Tuesday, Sept. 29 th	Ethnicity & Conflict	*Ellingsen, Tanja. 2000. "Colorful Community or Ethnic Witches' Brew? Multiethnicity and Domestic Conflict During and After the Cold War." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 44(2): 228-249. Collier & Sambanis, Chapter 7
Thursday, October 1 st	Democracy & Civil War	*Hegre, Havard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates, and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2001. "Towards a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change, and Civil War, 1816-1992." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 95(1): 33-48. Collier & Sambanis, Chapter 3
Tuesday, October 6 th	Separatist & Non-Separatist Wars	*Buhaug, Halvard. 2006. "Relative Capability and Rebel Objective in Civil War." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 43(6): 691-708.
Thursday, October 8 th	Diffusion of Civil Wars	*Salehyan, Idean and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2006. "Refugees and the Spread of Civil War." <i>International Organization</i> 60: 335-366.
Tuesday, October 13 th	Transnational Forces	*Thyne, Clayton L. 2007. "Cheap Signals with Costly Consequences: The Effect of Interstate Relations on Civil War, 1945-1999." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> . *Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede. 2007. "Transnational Dimensions of Civil War." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 44(3): 293-309.
Thursday, October 15 th	MIDTERM EXAM	

SECTION III: CIVIL WAR DURATION, OUTCOMES, AND CONSEQUENCES

<u>Class Schedule</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Tuesday, October 20 th	How Civil Wars End	*Mason, T. David and Patrick J. Fett. 1996. "How Civil Wars End: A Rational Choice Approach." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 40(4): 546-568.
Thursday, October 22 nd	Civil War Duration	*Balch-Lindsay, Dylan and Andrew J. Enterline. 2000. "Killing Time: The World Politics of Civil War Duration, 1820-1992." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 44(4): 615-642.
Tuesday, October 27 th	Civil War Duration	*Collier, Paul, Anke Hoeffler, and Mans Soderbam. 2004. "On the Duration of Civil War." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 41(3): 253-273.
Thursday, October 29 th	Civil War Duration	*Fearon, James D. 2004. "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer than Others?" <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 41(3): 275-301.
Tuesday, November 3 rd	Civil War Outcomes	*DeRouen, Karl R. Jr. and David Sobek. 2004. "The Dynamics of Civil War Duration and Outcome." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 41(3): 303-320.
Thursday, November 5 th	Civil War Recurrence	*Walter, Barbara F. 2004. "Does Conflict Beget Conflict? Explaining Recurring Civil War." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 41(3): 371-388.
Tuesday, November 10 th	Health & Social Consequences	*Ghobarah, Hazem Adam, Paul Huth, and Bruce Russett. 2003. "Civil Wars Kill and Maim People—Long After the Shooting Stops." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97(2): 189-202.
Thursday, November 12 th	Civil War and Education	*Lai, Brian and Clayton L. Thyne. 2007. "The Effect of Civil War on Education, 1980-97." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 44(3): 277-292.
Tuesday, November 17 th	Effects of Oil Wealth	*Fjelde, Hanne. 2009. "Buying Peace? Oil Wealth, Corruption, and Civil War, 1985-99." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 46(2): 199-218.
Thursday, November 19 th	No Class, Peace Science Society Conference	
Tuesday, November 24 th & Thursday, November 26 th	No Class, Thanksgiving Break	

SECTION IV: BREAKING THE CONFLICT TRAP

<u>Class Schedule</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Tuesday, December 1 st	A Theory of Peacekeeping	Fortna, Chapters 1, 4
Thursday, December 3 rd	Where Peacekeepers Go	Fortna, Chapters 2-3
Tuesday, December 8 th	Effectiveness of Peacekeeping	Fortna, Chapter 5
Thursday, December 10 th	Effectiveness of Peacekeeping	Fortna, Chapters 6-7
Wednesday, December 16 th	FINAL EXAM, 7:30-9:30am	