

# **IR/PSC 265: Civil War and the International System**

**Prof. Bethany Lacina**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:25-11:40**  
**Harkness 210**

Civil war is by far the most common form of armed conflict in the contemporary world. Internal wars, such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan, are also central to the major foreign policy debates in the United States and the United Nations. The first half of this course addresses the question of when and where civil wars occur and what their effects are domestically and internationally. The second half of the class examines external actors' role in civil war, such as financial support to governments or insurgents, armed interventions, and peacekeeping missions.

## **professor**

Bethany Lacina  
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Office: Harkness 322  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30

## **Course Requirements**

1. Students should attend every class. Lecture slides will be available on Blackboard before the start of each class.
2. Reading for the week must be completed by all students before class. All required materials will be available through Blackboard.
3. There will be one in-class, small group assignment completed during and outside of class between September 18 and 25. It is worth 4% of the final grade and will be graded pass/fail. Students who are not in class on September 25 and do not make arrangements with the professor in advance will receive no credit.
4. Students will take 2 in-class midterms, each worth 28% of the final grade, and a cumulative final worth 40% of the final grade. There are no make-up exams, so please make any travel plans accordingly. Check the registrars website or office for the most up-to-date information on the schedule for the final exam.
5. The in-class midterms will consist of two essays. The final will require three essays. All of the essays will be randomly chosen from a list of questions distributed in advance of the exam. There will not be a choice of questions.
6. A rubric for evaluation of the exam essays will be distributed with the questions in advance of the exam.

7. If you are entitled to examination accommodations, please coordinate these with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in advance of the examination (see <http://www.rochester.edu/college/cetl/>). Students will not be able to obtain special examination accommodations directly from the professor.
8. The professor will not read over or evaluate answers or partial answers to the exam questions in advance of the test.

## **Regrading**

If a student wishes to challenge the grade assigned to all or part of an essay, the following steps must be taken:

1. Students must email the professor a request for a re-grade within 72 hours of the exams being returned to the class.
2. A request for a re-grade must explain which aspect(s) of the grading rubric the student believes should have been assigned a higher score. For each disputed aspect, students must justify why they should be given a higher grade given the standards in the grading rubric and cite specific materials in the readings or lectures if applicable.
3. The professor will re-grade all aspects of the essay. The students final score on the essay may go up or down or be unchanged.

## **Academic honesty**

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. The College Board on Academic Honesty provides further information on our policies and procedures: [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty).

You are welcome to work with other students on preparing for the exams. There will also be in-class review sessions. You may not bring any notes or other class materials to the exam. Any backpacks, computers, or phones that you bring to the classroom on examination day will need to be left at the front of the room.

## **Class schedule**

**Sept 6 Class 1: Introduction to the course**

**Sept 11 Class 2: Inside civil war**

*Reading to complete before class (24 pages):*

Collier, P. et al. 2003. *Breaking the Conflict Trap*. The World Bank and Oxford University Press. Pp. 93-97 & 100-118. (24 pages)

**Sept 13 Class 3: State strength**

*Reading to complete before class (23 pages):*

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1. (23 pages)

**Sept 18 Class 4: Small group meetings**

No new reading. Assignment will be distributed in advance.

**Sept 20 Class 5: No class**

**Sept 25 Class 6: State weakness in-class activity**

No new reading.

**Sept 27 Class 7: When states fail**

*Reading to complete before class (28 pages):*

Gelvin, J. 2014. The Arab Uprisings: What everyone needs to know. Oxford University Press. Part 3: Uprisings in weak states: Yemen and Libya. (28 pages)

**Oct 2 Class 8: Economic conditions for civil war**

*Reading to complete before class (24 pages):*

Collier, P. 2000. Doing well out of war: An economic perspective. In Greed and Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil War, eds. M. R. Berdal, and D. M. Malone. Lynne Rienner. (22 pages)

Bass, G.H. 2006. What really causes civil war? The New York Times, August 13. (2 pages)

**Oct 4 Class 9: Sanctuaries and spillovers**

*Reading to complete before class (24 pages):*

Salehyan, I. 2009. Rebels without Borders. Cornell University Press. Pp. 19-26 & 35-50.

**Oct 9 Fall Break**

**Oct 11 Class 10: Organized crime or insurgency?**

*Reading to complete before class (49 pages):*

Manwaring, M.G. 2007. A Contemporary Challenge to State Sovereignty: Gangs and Other Illicit Transnational Criminal Organizations in Central America, El Salvador, Mexico, Jamaica, and Brazil. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute. (49 pages)

**Oct 16 Class 11: Civil war during the Cold War**

*Reading to complete before class (49 pages):*

Human Security Report Project 2005. The Human Security Report 2005. Oxford University Press. Pp. 15-39. (25 pages)

Lounsbury, M.O. and F. Pearson. 2009. Civil Wars: Internal Struggles, Global Consequences. University of Toronto Press. Pp. 83-103, 114-116. (24 pages)

**Oct 18 Review session (Mandatory)**

**Oct 23 Midterm I**

**Oct 25 Class 12: After the Cold War**

*Reading to complete before class (30 pages):*

Human Security Report Project. 2005. The Human Security Report 2005. Oxford University Press. Part 5. (15 pages)

Kalyvas, S. N. and L. Balcells. 2010. International system and technologies of rebellion: How the end of the Cold War shaped internal conflict. American Political Science Review. (15 pages)

**Oct 30 Class 13: The remnants of war?**

*Reading to complete before class (38 pages):*

Kaplan. R.D. 1994. The coming anarchy. The Atlantic Monthly. (38 pages)

**Nov 1 Class 14: Is ethnic war different?**

*Reading to complete before class (52 pages):*

Kaufmann, C. 1996. Possible and impossible solutions to ethnic war. International Security. (40 pages)

Gilly, B. 2004. Against the concept of ethnic conflict. Third World Quarterly. (12 pages)

**Nov 6 Class 15: The East Asian peace**

*Reading to complete before class (30 pages):*

Tønnesson, S. 2015. The East Asian Peace. Global Asia. (2 pages)

Tønnesson, S. 2015. Explaining East Asia's Developmental Peace: The Dividends of Economic Growth. Global Asia. (5 pages)

Eck, K. 2015. Cracking Down on Conflict: East Asia's Repressive Peace. Global Asia. (6 pages)

Baev, P.K. and Tønnesson, S. 2017. The Troubled Russia-China Partnership as a Challenge to the East Asian Peace. Fudan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences. (17 pages)

**Nov 8 Class 16: Neutral peacekeeping**

*Reading to complete before class (57 pages):*

Walter, B. F. 1999. Designing transitions from civil war: Demobilization, democratization, and commitments to peace. *International Security*. (29 pages)

Fortna, V.P. 2008) *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices after Civil War*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 4. (28 pages)

**Nov 13 Class 17: The UN and post-Cold War peacekeeping**

*Reading to complete before class (51 pages):*

Howard, L. M. 2008) *UN Peacekeeping in Civil Wars*. Cambridge University Press. Selections from Chapter 4. (36 pages)

Luttwak, E.N. 1999. Give war a chance. *Foreign Affairs*. (9 pages)

G. Evans and M. Sahnoun 2002) The responsibility to protect, *Foreign Affairs*. (6 pages)

**Nov 15 Class 18: Review session (mandatory)**

**Nov 20 Midterm II**

**Nov 22 Thanksgiving Break**

**Nov 27 Class 19: Civil war and the international system after 9/11**

*Reading to complete before class (59 pages):*

Kilcullen, D. 2009. The Accidental Guerrilla. Oxford University Press. Pp. 28-38, 283-288. (17 pages)

Rubin, M. 2012) Supporting the global campaign against terror. American Enterprise Institute. (12 pages)

Mueller, J., and Mark G. S. 2012. The Terrorism Delusion: Americas Overwrought Response to September 11. *International Security* 37(1). (30 pages)

**Nov 29 Class 20: Counterinsurgency debates**

*Reading to complete before class (68 pages):*

Killcullen, D. 2006. Counter-insurgency redux. Survival. (20 pages)

Ollivant, D.A. 2011. Countering the New Orthodoxy: Reinterpreting Counterinsurgency in Iraq. The New America Foundation. (14 pages)

Biddle, S., J.A. Friedman, and J.N. Shapiro. 2012. Testing the Surge: Why Did Violence Decline in Iraq in 2007? International Security. (34 pages)

**Dec 4 Class 21: The long war in Afghanistan**

*Reading to complete before class (37 pages):*

Barfield, T. 2016. Afghanistan's Arduous Search for Stability. Current History. (8 pages)

Auerswald, D.P. and S.M. Saideman. 2016. NATO in Afghanistan: Fighting Together, Fighting Alone. Princeton University Press. (29 pages)

**Dec 6 Class 22: The Middle East after 9/11**

*Reading to complete before class (49 pages):*

Gelvin, J. 2014. The Arab Uprisings: What everyone needs to know. Oxford University Press. 116-164. (49 pages)

**Dec 11 Class 23: The rise and fall of ISIS**

*Reading to complete before class (40 pages):*

Chulov, M. 2015. Why ISIS fights. The Guardian. (10 pages)

Reuter, C. 2015. Secret files reveal the structure of the Islamic State. Der Spiegel. (11 pages)

Stern, J. 2015. ISIS's apocalyptic vision. Defining Ideas. (2 pages)

Walt, S.M. 2015. ISIS as revolutionary state: New twist on an old story. Foreign Affairs. (11 pages)

Wood, G. 2017. What we still don't know about the Islamic States's Foreign Fighters. The Atlantic Monthly. (6 pages)

**Dec 13 Class 24: Final review session (optional)**