

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

**Prof. Bethany Lacina**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 - 10:15**  
**Hylan 101**

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 class addresses the questions of when and where civil wars occur and what their effects are domestically and internationally. It focuses on foreign 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 hours: Tuesdays, 10–12

## **Course Requirements**

1. Students should attend every class.
2. Lecture slides will be available on Blackboard.
3. Reading for the week must be completed by all students before class. All required materials are available through links in this syllabus.
4. Students will take 2 in-class midterms, each worth 30% 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 registrar's 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/disability/index.html>). 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 student's 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**

**Jan 15 Introduction to the course**

**Jan 20 No class**

**Jan 22 Class 1: Westphalian states and the nature of war**

*Reading to complete before class (21 pages):*

Lake, David A. 2003. "The New Sovereignty in International Relations," *International Studies Review* (21 pages) <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3186572>

**Jan 27 Class 2: All civil wars have domestic components**

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

Collier, Paul et al. 2003. *Breaking the Conflict Trap*. The World Bank and Oxford University Press. Pp. 93-97 & 100-118. (24 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/mt9w21xnq4j5rho/Breaking\\_the\\_conflict\\_trap\\_93to97\\_100to118.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/mt9w21xnq4j5rho/Breaking_the_conflict_trap_93to97_100to118.pdf?dl=0)

**Jan 29 Class 3: Almost all civil wars have international components**

*Reading to complete before class (47 pages):*

Salehyan, Idean 2009. *Rebels without Borders*. Cornell University Press. Pp. 19-26 & 35-50. (23 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/a8qky3x0xl4139r/Salehyan\\_19to26and35to50.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/a8qky3x0xl4139r/Salehyan_19to26and35to50.pdf?dl=0)

Lounsbury, Marie Olson and Frederic Pearson. 2009. *Civil Wars: Internal Struggles, Global Consequences*. University of Toronto Press. Pp. 83-103 & 114-116. (24 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/l1f0p8ciu00jyg6/LounsburyPearson\\_CivilWars83103\\_114116.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/l1f0p8ciu00jyg6/LounsburyPearson_CivilWars83103_114116.pdf?dl=0)

**Feb 3 Class 4: What civil wars are like: Insurgency**

*Reading to complete before class (26 pages):*

Johnson, Chalmers. 1968. "The third generation of guerrilla warfare." *Asian Survey* (13 pages) <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2642158>

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. "Sons of the soil, migrants, and civil war." *World Development* (13 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/uz8116hqa5g9lhe/FearonLaitin.pdf?dl=0>

**Feb 5 Class 5: What civil wars are like: Regime collapse**

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

Gelvin, James. 2014. *The Arab Uprisings: What everyone needs to know*. Oxford University Press. Part 3: Uprisings in weak states: Yemen and Libya. (28 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/qk1qy112ju444t7/Gelvin\\_Chp3\\_Yemen\\_Libya.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qk1qy112ju444t7/Gelvin_Chp3_Yemen_Libya.pdf?dl=0)

**Feb 10 Class 6: How civil wars end**

*Reading to complete before class (17 pages):*

Dixon, Jeffrey. 2009. "Emerging Consensus: Results from the Second Wave of Statistical Studies on Civil War Termination." *Civil Wars*. (17 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/bm6r1eohgqn2838/Dixon\\_EmergingConsensus.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/bm6r1eohgqn2838/Dixon_EmergingConsensus.pdf?dl=0)

**Feb 12 Review session**

**Feb 17 Midterm I**

**Feb 19 Class 7: Civil wars in the wake of WWII**

*Reading to complete before class (15 pages):*

Millett, Alan R. 2001. "Introduction to the Korean War." *The Journal of Military History* (15 pages) [www.jstor.org/stable/2677623](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2677623)

**Feb 24 Class 8: Decolonization and civil war**

*Reading to complete before class (11 pages):*

Lee, Alexander and Jack Paine. 2019. "What Were the Consequences of Decolonization?" *International Studies Quarterly* (11 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/wgkkv4e2n4vfh84/LeePaine.pdf?dl=0>

**Feb 26 Class 9: The Cold War and civil war interventions**

*Reading to complete before class (25 pages):*

Human Security Report Project. 2005. *The Human Security Report 2005*. Oxford University Press. Pp. 15-39. (25 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/5fqrvjb2t5ihcb4/HumanSecurityReport\\_15to39.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/5fqrvjb2t5ihcb4/HumanSecurityReport_15to39.pdf?dl=0)

**Mar 2 Class 10: The end of 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) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/wg9kjadmyhm8qm3/HumanSecurityReport\\_Part5.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/wg9kjadmyhm8qm3/HumanSecurityReport_Part5.pdf?dl=0)

Kalyvas, Stathis N. and Laia Balcells. 2010. "International system and technologies of rebellion: How the end of the Cold War shaped internal conflict." *American Political Science Review*. (15 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/7tsdieez0u6gux/KalyvasBalcells.pdf?dl=0>

**Mar 4 Class 11: The East Asian peace**

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

Tønnesson, Stein, et al. 2015. "The East Asian Peace." *Global Asia* (30 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/7ape1dcyh3xqeun/Tonnenson\\_EastAsianPeace\\_4articles.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/7ape1dcyh3xqeun/Tonnenson_EastAsianPeace_4articles.pdf?dl=0)

**Mar 9 Class 12: Africa's world wars**

*Reading to complete before class (26 pages):*

Elbadawi, Ibrahim and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "Why are there so many civil wars in Africa?" *Journal of African Economies*. (26 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/iudfvon733jwmif/ElbadawiSambanis.pdf?dl=0>

**Mar 11 Spring break**

**Mar 16 Spring break**

**Mar 18 Class 13: The UN and post-Cold War peacekeeping**

*Reading to complete before class (36 pages):*

Howard, Lise M. 2008. *UN Peacekeeping in Civil Wars*. Cambridge University Press. Selections from Chapter 4. (36 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/9hg0s16hakt8yx5/Howard\\_Ch4\\_Redacted\\_2017.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/9hg0s16hakt8yx5/Howard_Ch4_Redacted_2017.pdf?dl=0)

**Mar 23 Class 14: When does peacekeeping work?**

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

Walter, Barbara F. 1999. "Designing transitions from civil war: Demobilization, democratization, and commitments to peace." *International Security* (29 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/cpuv7ped44dptyq/Walter\\_DesigningTransitions.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/cpuv7ped44dptyq/Walter_DesigningTransitions.pdf?dl=0)

Fortna, Virginia Paige 2008. *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices after Civil War*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 4. (28 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/cxpufafp6yyrfam/Fortna.pdf?dl=0>

**Mar 25 Class 15: Limitations of peacekeeping**

*Reading to complete before class (56 pages):*

Autessere, Séverine. 2014. *Peaceland*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1–19 & 59–96. (56 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/nzjtl5jy64lra0y/Peaceland.pdf?dl=0>

**Mar 30 No class**

**Apr 1 Review session**

**Apr 6 Midterm II**

**Apr 8 Class 16: Civil war and the international system after 9/11**

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

Kilcullen, David. 2009. *The Accidental Guerrilla*. Oxford University Press. Pp. 28–38 & 283–288. (17 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/780oci2e7gt5jei/Kilcullen\\_28to38\\_283to288\\_Redacted.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/780oci2e7gt5jei/Kilcullen_28to38_283to288_Redacted.pdf?dl=0)

Mallaby, Sebastian. 2002. The Reluctant Imperialist. *Foreign Affairs*. (4 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/hp9kfu2swfku28m/Mallaby.pdf?dl=0>

Mueller, John, and Mark G. Stewart. 2012. "The Terrorism Delusion: America's Overwrought Response to September 11." *International Security* (30 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/dwvrqolkg2ovdc/MuellerStewart\\_IntlSecurity.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/dwvrqolkg2ovdc/MuellerStewart_IntlSecurity.pdf?dl=0)

**Apr 13 Class 17: NATO and the long war in Afghanistan**

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

Barfield, Thomas 2016. "Afghanistan's Arduous Search for Stability." *Current History*. (8 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/smnfwm80t7ixa3q/Barfield\\_Afghanistan\\_Search\\_Stability.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/smnfwm80t7ixa3q/Barfield_Afghanistan_Search_Stability.pdf?dl=0)

Auerswald, David P. and Stephen M. Saideman. 2016. *NATO in Afghanistan: Fighting Together, Fighting Alone*. Princeton University Press. (29 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/yo4jtdz7nuina60/Auerswald\\_Saideman\\_Nato\\_at\\_war.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/yo4jtdz7nuina60/Auerswald_Saideman_Nato_at_war.pdf?dl=0)

### **Apr 15 Class 18: The invasion of Iraq**

*Reading to complete before class (18 pages):*

Bacevich, Andrew J. 2016. *America's War for the Greater Middle East*. Random House. Chapter 17. (18 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/flhtu8eatk0z251/Bacevich.pdf?dl=0>

### **Apr 20 Class 19: Great power rivalry and civil war in the Middle East**

*Reading to complete before class (63 pages):*

Gelvin, James. 2017. *The New Middle East: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. Selections. (63 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/5mqansy8kb0tms1/Gelvin\\_New\\_Middle\\_East.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/5mqansy8kb0tms1/Gelvin_New_Middle_East.pdf?dl=0)

### **Apr 22 Class 20: Ukraine**

*Reading to complete before class (9 pages):*

Mearsheimer, John J. 2014. "Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault." *Foreign Affairs* (3 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/nzp4mntd96w7udn/Mearsheimer.pdf?dl=0>

Motyl, Alexander. 2014. "The Ukraine crisis according to John J. Mearsheimer: Impeccable Logic, Wrong Facts." *European Leadership Network*. (6 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/328c61jb68tu1jr/Motyl.pdf?dl=0>

### **Apr 27 Class 21: Authoritarianism, populism, and peace**

*Reading to complete before class (18 pages):*

Diamond, Larry. 2019. "Democracy Demotion," *Foreign Affairs* (9 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/wqpcseewpnq0h4e/Diamond.pdf?dl=0>

Weiss, Jessica Chen. 2019. "A World Safe for Autocracy? China's Rise and the Future of Global Politics," *Foreign Affairs* (11 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ciffy348uvjkg23/Weiss.pdf?dl=0>

**Apr 29 Final review session**

**Final exam at time and place determined by registrar**