Purpose

Civil war is currently the predominant form of armed conflict. Internal wars, including current conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria, are the focus of many foreign policy debates in both this country and around the world. This course examines questions about when and where civil wars start, how long they last, how they end, and why some restart. Additionally, we will examine the role of external actors in civil war, in particular their influence through financial support, armed intervention, and peacekeeping.

Course Requirements

Evaluation is based on three exams: two midterms and one final exam. Each midterm is worth 30% of the final grade, while the (cumulative) final exam is worth 40% of the final grade.

Exams are given on schedule, and make-up exams will not be administered. Make all travel plans accordingly.

The date, time, and location of the final exam is determined by the registrar. Note that the registrar can change these details without consulting the course instructor. Check the registrar’s website or office for exact details.

If you are entitled to examination accommodation, please coordinate with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in advance of the examination. Students will not be able to obtain accommodations directly from the instructor or the teaching assistant.
Final grades will be based on the weighted average of exam scores plus extra credit. The grading scale is as follows:

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\begin{align*}
93 < x & : A \\
90 < x \leq 93 & : A- \\
87 < x \leq 90 & : B+ \\
84 < x \leq 87 & : B \\
80 < x \leq 84 & : B- \\
77 < x \leq 80 & : C+ \\
74 < x \leq 77 & : C \\
70 < x \leq 74 & : C- \\
60 < x \leq 70 & : D \\
x \leq 60 & : E
\end{align*}
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**Attendance and Extra Credit**

Attendance is highly encouraged, but not required. Three extra credit points will be added to a student’s final grade if they miss no classes, two extra points for missing only 1-2 classes, one point for missing 3-4 classes and no extra credit will be rewarded to students missing 5 or more classes.

If more than 95% of the class completes the on-line course evaluations everyone will have an extra 3 points to their final grade.

**Texts**

All readings will be available on blackboard. Lecture slides will also be posted to blackboard within 24 hours of the lecture.

**Exam Format**

Both midterm exams will consist of two parts. The first part will contain 8 terms for identification. Students will identify 5 of these 8 terms. The second part of the exam will consist of an essay question (from a choice of two prompts). Additional details, along with grading rubrics for the essay and the identification terms, will be posted to blackboard prior to the first exam.

The final exam, like the midterm will contain 8 identification terms with students choosing 5 to answer. Unlike the midterm, however, the final exam
will have two required essay questions (from a choice of three prompts).

All grading will be done by the Teaching Assistant, each identification question is worth 8pts and essays are worth 60 points. If an arithmetical error is discovered, students should approach the TA, who will fix the error. However, if a student wishes to challenge a grade of all or part of the exam, the following steps must be taken:

1. Email the instructor within 72 hours of the exams being returned.

2. Explain which aspect(s) of the rubric(s) should lead to a higher score. For each disputed element, the student should cite specific aspects of the rubric to justify why a higher grade is deserved. Specific appeals to lectures or readings should be included as applicable.

3. If the instructor deems that there is enough ground for the challenge, he will re-grade the entire essay or identification section, depending on what is being appealed. The student’s grade may go up, down, or remain unchanged.

Any appeals not following this format will be ignored.

**Academic Integrity**

Please be familiar with the University’s academic honesty policies [url: http://www.rochester.edu/College/CCAS/AdviserHandbook/AcadHonesty.html]. Violations of these policies will be handled with the utmost seriousness. Violators will be referred to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty.

**Course Schedule**

13 January: Course Introduction and Syllabus Review
18 January: MLK Day, No Class

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Unit 1: What do we know about Civil War

20 January: About civil war


**25 January: Correlates of civil war onset**


**27 January: Bargaining theories of war**


**1 February: Why are civil wars so long?**


**3 February: Reputation civil war**


**8 February: Superpowers and civil war: Cold War**


**10 February: Superpowers and civil war: After the Cold War**


15 February: New wars


17 February: Review for Exam One, Discussion of Exam Format/Grading

1. No new readings

22 February: Midterm Exam 1

Unit 2: Civil War and the International System

24 February: Peacekeeping


29 February: Humanitarian intervention


2 March: Neutral v. Biased mediation


7 March: SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

9 March: SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

14 March: One sided intervention


16 March: Sanctuary and spillover I


21 March: Sanctuary and spillover II

1. No new readings

23 March: The decision to get involved


28 March: Civil war and international crisis


30 March: Midterm Exam 2

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Unit 3: Examples of Civil Wars and Counterinsurgencies

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4 April: IRA-United Kingdom and Shining Path-Peru

1. Dekmejian, R.H. (2007) *Spectrum of Terror*. CQ Press. Chapters 1, 3 (Great Britain section only), and 6 (Peru section only)

6 April: Iraq I


**11 April: Iraq II**


**13 April: Israel-Palestine**

1. Fisher, M. (2012) “9 questions about Israel-Gaza you were too embarrassed to ask.” *Washington Post*


**18 April: Afghanistan**


**20 April: Libya**


**25 April: Syria**


**27 April: Review for Final Exam**

TBD: Cumulative Final Exam, Consult Registrar for Details
Final Disclaimer

The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better student learning.