

University of Rochester – IR 214
Fall 2011
Tuesdays/Thursdays – 3:25-4:40
Dewey 2110D

Political Violence in Comparative Perspective

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Office Hours: Fridays 2-4

Course description: This course will examine the subject of political violence from a comparative perspective. The first half of the course will address theories of the incidence of low-scale political violence including everyday resistance, political protests, urban riots, and military coups. In the second half, we will turn to theories of the incidence, duration, and intensity of large-scale violence including state terror, genocide, and civil wars. We will also consider the similarities and differences between political violence and violence in the so-called “private” sphere, for example abuse in upscale marriages. The course will conclude with a discussion of the social as well as psychological consequences of large-scale political violence and the ways and means available to the international community to bring lasting political peace in such situations.

Readings: All reading materials for this class will either be available electronically through Blackboard or will be reserved at the library circulation desk. Materials that are also available in e-book format through Voyager have been denoted with an asterisk * sign. I keep the right to make changes to the syllabus, but you will be notified of any changes well in advance.

Requirements: You are expected to attend lectures every Tuesday and Thursday and keep up with the readings. Lectures will be interspersed with discussions so active and informed class participation is expected. If for some reason you miss a class, please contact me BEFORE the class. More than 2 unexcused absences might affect your class participation grade by half a letter grade. More than 5 accumulated absences will result in 0% for the class participation portion of your overall grade.

Participation in this class does not end in the classroom. At different points of time in the semester, I will be setting up discussion threads in Blackboard. Participation in these discussions will be mandatory. A post could be a question about the particular discussion thread or your reflections on the thread or your response to another post or anything else that is related to the thread. Any post is acceptable as long as it shows that you are

earnestly engaging with the subject of the thread, and equally importantly, that you are willing to give due consideration to viewpoints that are different from your own.

The assignments for the course will include two mid-semester examinations and one end-term examination. You also have the option of writing an original essay of 8-10 pages applying the concepts learned in the course. If you do choose to write the essay, you must submit a draft proposal of 2-3 pages before the Thanksgiving break. The essay will be due the last day of class. **LATE ESSAYS WILL BE GIVEN A LOWER GRADE: one-third letter grade per day late.** Example: An “A” paper two days late will drop to a “B+”.

Academic Honesty: A plagiarized paper will not receive any points. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course and sanctions determined by the University’s Academic Honesty board.

Grading:

- Class Participation - 10%
- Discussion Board – 10 %
- First Mid-Semester Exam – 20%
- Second Mid-Semester Exam – 20%
- End-Semester Exam – 40%

For students who take the essay option, the final grade will be calculated as follows:
Class Participation 10%, Discussion Board 10 %, First Mid-Semester Exam 15%, Second Mid-Semester Exam 15%, Essay 15 %, End-Semester Exam 35%.

Classroom Etiquette: You deserve a Professor who does not read his newspaper, listen to his I-pod, answer his cell-phone, use his laptop to access Facebook or otherwise demonstrate a lack of respect for you during class discussion and lectures. Your Professor deserves students who demonstrate the same level of respect.

Course Calendar:

September 1: Introduction

Typology of Violence

September 6:

Read:

*Stathis Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, Ch. 1.

*Kurt Schock, *Unarmed Insurrections*, 2005, 1-6, 13-16, 30-33.

Everyday Resistance

September 8:

Read:

James Scott, "Resistance without Protest and without Organization," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 29 (3), 1987, 417-452.

September 13:

Read:

Kathy Le Mons Walker, "From Covert to Overt: Everyday Peasant Politics in China and the Implications for Transnational Agrarian Movements," *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 8 (2-3), 2008, 462-488.

Unarmed Insurrections

September 15:

Read:

Sydney Tarrow, *Power in Movement*, 1998, Ch. 1.

*Kurt Schock, *Unarmed Insurrections*, 2005, 49-55.

September 20:

Read:

DingXin Zhao, *The Power of Tiananmen*, 2001, Ch. 6.

Urban Riots

September 22

Read:

Donald Horowitz, *The Deadly Ethnic Riot*, 2001, Ch. 13.

Military Coups

September 27:

Read:

Patrick J. McGowan, "African Military Coups D'état," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 2003, 41 (3), 339-370.

*Jimmy Kandeh, *Coups from Below*, 2004, Introduction & Ch. 7.

State Terror

September 29:

Read:

Ted Gurr, "The Political Origins of State Violence and Terror: A Theoretical Analysis" in Michael Stohl and George Lopez ed. *Government Violence and Repression: An Agenda for Research*, 1986.

October 4:Read:

Thomas Wright, *State Terrorism in Latin America*, 2007, Ch. 4.

October 6: Review**October 13: First Mid-term Exam****Genocide****October 18:**Read:

Alex de Waal, "Tragedy of Darfur: On Understanding and Ending the Horror," *Boston Review*, 2004, October/November. <http://www.bostonreview.net/BR29.5/dewaal.php>

Alison Des Forges, *Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda*, 1999, Introduction. <http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/rwanda0399.htm>

October 20:Read:

Scott Straus, "Rwanda and Darfur: A Comparative Analysis," *Genocide Studies and Prevention*, 2006, 1(1), 41-56.

Reciprocal Extermination**October 25:**Read:

Yasmin Khan, *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*, 2007, Ch. 1.

Paul Brass, "The Partition of India and Retributive Genocide in the Punjab, 1946-47: Means, Methods, and Purposes," *Journal of Genocide Research*, 2003, 5(1), 71-101.

Civil War**October 27:**Read:

*Paul Collier, Anke Hoeffler, and Nicholas Sambanis, "The Collier Hoeffler Model of Civil War Onset and the Case Study Project Research Design" in Paul Collier and Nicholas Sambanis ed. *Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis, Volume 1: Africa*, 2005, 1-18.

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

November 1:Read:

Michael Ross, "How do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases," *International Organization*, 2004, 58 (1), 35-67.

Ethnic Violence

November 3:

Read:

Jack Snyder, *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*, 2000, 15–42.

Amy Chua, “Two Faces of Globalization: A World on the Edge,” *The Wilson Quarterly*, 2002, 26 (4), 62-77.

Levels of Violence

November 8:

Read:

Stathis Kalyvas, “Wanton and Senseless? The Logic of Massacres in Algeria,” *Rationality and Society*, 1999, 11 (3), 243-285.

Thandika Mkandawire, “The Terrible Toll of Post-colonial ‘Rebel Movements’ in Africa: Towards an Explanation of the Violence Against the Peasantry,” *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 2002, 40 (2), 181-215.

November 10:

Read:

Jeremy Weinstein, *Inside Rebellion*, 2007, 1-22, 239-258.

Structural Violence

November 15:

Read:

Ron Daniels, “The Crisis of Police Brutality in America: The Causes and the Cure” in Jill Nelson ed. *Police Brutality*, 2001, Ch. 12.

Susan Weitzman, *Not to People Like Us: Hidden Abuse in Upscale Marriages*, 2000, Ch.7.

November 17: Review

November 22: Second Mid-term Exam

End of Violence

November 29:

Read:

Elizabeth Jean Wood, *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador*, 2000, Introduction and Ch. 7.

December 1:Read:

Chaim Kaufmann, "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars," *International Security*, 1996, 20 (4), 136-175.

December 6:Watch:

Anna Borzello, *Inside the LRA*, Journeyman Pictures, 2007

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYURv18WXFU>

Read:

Anna Borzello, "The Challenge of DDR in Northern Uganda: The Lord's Resistance Army," *Conflict, Security & Development*, 2007, 7:3, 387-415.

Maya Christensen and Mats Utas, "Mercenaries of Democracy: the 'Politricks' of Remobilized Combatants in the 2007 General Elections, Sierra Leone," *African Affairs*, 2008, 107(429), 515-539.

December 8:Read:

David M. Law, "Conclusion: Security Sector (Re)Construction in Post-Conflict Settings," *International Peacekeeping*, 2006, 13 (1), 111-123.

Sven Gunnar Simonsen, "Building 'National' Armies - Building Nations?: Determinants of Success for Postintervention Efforts," *Armed Forces & Society*, 2007, 33(4), 571-590.

December 13: Review