

# **PSC/IR 265: Civil War and International Systems**

University of Rochester  
Spring 2014  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:25-4:40  
Meliora 203  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:15-4:15

Civil wars are now the most common form of armed combat in the world. However, as recent American forays in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya have illustrated, civil wars are rarely fought in isolation. Each side looks to foreign actors for military support or outright intervention. Meanwhile, international organizations like the United Nations mediate conflicts and initiate peacekeeping missions. As such, this course analyzes how the international system interacts with civil conflict.

## Course Materials

Blackboard is difficult to work with. Thus, I will post all course materials on my website: [wjspaniel.wordpress.com/pscir-265](http://wjspaniel.wordpress.com/pscir-265). Most importantly, this includes links to required readings, PDFs of lecture slides, and recorded videos of lectures.

## Evaluation

Students will take three in-class exams and submit one problem set. The problem set is worth 10% of the final grade. Two midterms comprise 25% of the final grade. The final exam makes up the remaining 40% of the final grade.

After weighting each individual grade, final grades will be *no worse* than the following:

$93\% < x$	A
$90 < x \leq 93\%$	A-
$87\% < x \leq 90\%$	B+
$83\% < x \leq 87\%$	B
$80\% < x \leq 83\%$	B-
$77\% < x \leq 80\%$	C+
$73\% < x \leq 77\%$	C
$70\% < x \leq 73\%$	C-
$x \leq 70\%$	Non-passing grades

## Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

## Readings and Schedule

The readings and schedule are subject to change, pending how fast we move through the material. Please see the website for links to the readings and an up-to-date schedule.

### Topic 1: Motivation (1/16)

No readings.

### Topic 2: Bargaining and War (1/21, 1/23)

James D. Fearon. "[Rationalist Explanations for War.](#)"

Problem set distributed on 1/21.

### Topic 3: Uncertainty (1/28, 1/30)

Branislav L. Slantchev. "[The Principle of Convergence in Wartime Negotiations.](#)" Skip the math that appears on 622-626.

### Topic 4: Reputation (2/4)

Barbara F. Walter. "[Building Reputation: Why Governments Fight Some Separatists but Not Others.](#)"

Daniel Treisman. "[Rational Appeasement.](#)" Skip the math that appears on 351-362.

### Topic 5: Commitment (2/6, 2/11, 2/13)

Problem set due 2/6.

James D. Fearon. "[Ethnic War as a Commitment Problem.](#)"

Barbara F. Walter. "[The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement.](#)"

James D. Fearon. "[Why Do Some Civil Wars Last Longer than Others?](#)"

James D. Fearon. "[Obstacles to Ending Syria's Civil War.](#)"

Douglas A. Ollivant. "[Countering the New Orthodoxy: Reinterpreting Counterinsurgency in Iraq.](#)"

### Catch Up and Review Session (2/18)

### Midterm 1 (2/20)

### Topic 6: Economic Coercion (2/25)

Robert A. Pape. "[Why Economic Sanctions Do Not Work.](#)"

Daniel W. Drezner. "[The Hidden Hand of Economic Coercion.](#)"

**Topic 7: The Conflict Trap (2/27)**

Paul Collier et. al. [Breaking the Conflict Trap](#). Overview and Chapter 1.

**Topic 8: Predation (3/4)**

Charles Tilly. "[War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.](#)"

**Topic 9: R2P (3/6)**

Gareth Evans and Mohamed Sahnoun. "[The Responsibility to Protect.](#)"

Allan J. Kuperman. "[Rwanda in Retrospect.](#)"

**Spring Break (3/11, 3/13)**

**Topic 10: Institutions (3/18)**

Erik Voeten. "[Outside Options and the Logic of Security Council Action.](#)"

**Topic 11: Regime Insurance (3/20)**

No readings.

**Catch Up and Review Session (3/25)**

**Midterm 2 (3/27)**

**Topic 12: Maybe We Should Just Give Up (4/1)**

Robert Luttwak. "[Give War a Chance.](#)"

No class 4/3

**Topic 13: Terrorism (4/8, 4/10, 4/15, 4/17)**

Robert Pape. "[The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.](#)"

Scott Ashworth et. al. "[Design, Inference, and the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.](#)"

Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter. "[Sabotaging the Peace: The Politics of Extremist Violence.](#)"

Mia Bloom. "[Palestinian Suicide Bombing: Public Support, Market Share, and Outbidding.](#)"

David A. Lake. "[Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century.](#)"

**Topic 14: Insurgency (4/22, 4/25)**

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin. "[Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.](#)"

Ivan Arreguin-Toft. "[How the Weak Win Wars.](#)"

**Catch Up and Review Session (4/29)**