

---

**IR/PSC 265**

Spring 2016

MW 10:25 –11:40 AM

**Civil War and the International System**

Harkness Hall 115

---

**Instructor:**

Casey Crisman-Cox

Harkness Hall 334

Office Hours: Mondays, 3:00–4:30pm

c.crisman-cox@rochester.edu

**Teaching Assistant:**

Aram Kim

Harkness Hall 304

Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30

akim47@ur.rochester.edu

## 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 do they end, and why do 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:

$93 < x$	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

## 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**

---

**Unit 1: What do we know about Civil War**

---

**20 January: About civil war**

1. Collier, P. et al. (2003) *Breaking the Conflict Trap*. The World Bank and Oxford University Press. 93-97, 100-118.
2. Bass, G.H. (2006) "What Really Causes Civil War?" *The New York Times*, August 13.

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

1. Fearon, J. D., and Laitin, D. D. (2003). "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review*, 97(01), 75-90.
2. Collier, P., and Hoeffler, A. (2004). "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers*, 56(4), 563-595.

### **27 January: Bargaining theories of war**

1. Fearon, J. D. (1995). "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization*, 49(03), 379-414.
2. Reiter, D. (2003). "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politics*, 1(01), 27-43.

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

1. Fearon, J. D. (2004). "Why do Some Civil Wars Last so Much Longer than Others?" *Journal of Peace Research*, 41(3), 275-301.
2. Walter, B. F.. (1997). "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement." *International Organization*, 51(3), 335-364.

### **3 February: Reputation civil war**

1. Walter, B. F. (2006). "Building Reputation: Why Governments Fight Some Separatists but not Others." *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(2), 313-330.
2. Crisman-Cox, C. (2016). "Civil Wars of Attrition: Bargaining, Reputation, and Civil War Duration." Unpublished Manuscript.

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

1. Human Security Report Project (2005) *The Human Security Report 2005*. Oxford University Press. 15-39.

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

1. Human Security Report Project (2005) *The Human Security Report 2005*. Oxford University Press. Part 5.
2. 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 February: New wars**

1. Kaldor, M. (2006) *New and Old Wars*. Selections.

**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**

1. Walter, B. F. (1999) “Designing transitions from civil war: Demobilization, democratization, and commitments to peace.” *International Security*.
2. Fortna, V.P. (2008) *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents’ Choices after Civil War*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 4.

**29 February: Humanitarian intervention**

1. Luttwak, E.N. (1999) “Give war a chance.” *Foreign Affairs*.
2. G. Evans and M. Sahnoun (2002) “The responsibility to protect,” *Foreign Affairs*.
3. Pape, R.A. (2012) “When Duty Calls: A Pragmatic Standard of Humanitarian Intervention,” *International Security*.

**2 March: Neutral v. Biased mediation**

1. Svensson, I. (2009). “Who Brings which Peace?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

2. Kydd, A. (2003). "Which Side are You on?" *American Journal of Political Science*, 47(4), 597-611.

**7 March: SPRING BREAK NO CLASS**

**9 March: SPRING BREAK NO CLASS**

**14 March: One sided intervention**

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

**16 March: Sanctuary and spillover I**

1. Salehyan, I. (2009) *Rebels without Borders*. Cornell University Press. Pp. 19-26, 35-50.

**21 March: Sanctuary and spillover II**

1. No new readings

**23 March: The decision to get involved**

1. Carroll, R. J. (2015) "Civil War in the Shadow of Intervention." Unpublished Manuscript.

**28 March: Civil war and international crisis**

1. de Waal, A. (2005) "Darfur, Sudan: Prospects for peace." *African Affairs*.
2. Anderson, J.L. (2012) "A History of Violence." *New Yorker*.

**30 March: Midterm Exam 2**

---

**Unit 3: Examples of Civil Wars and Counterinsurgencies**

---

**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**

1. Kilcullen, D. (2009) *The Accidental Guerrilla*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 3.
2. Lake, D.A. (2011) “Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War.” *International Security*.

### **11 April: Iraq II**

1. Ollivant, D.A. (2011) *Countering the New Orthodoxy: Reinterpreting Counterinsurgency in Iraq*. The New America Foundation.
2. Biddle, S., J.A. Friedman, and J.N. Shapiro. 2012. “Testing the Surge: Why Did Violence Decline in Iraq in 2007?” *International Security*.

### **13 April: Israel-Palestine**

1. Fisher, M. (2012) “9 questions about Israel-Gaza you were too embarrassed to ask.” *Washington Post*
2. Pan, E. (2005). “Middle East: Peace Plans Background.” *Council on Foreign Relations*.

### **18 April: Afghanistan**

1. Filkins, D. “After America.” *The New Yorker*.

### **20 April: Libya**

1. Serwer, D. (2011) “Post-Qaddafi Instability in Libya.” *Council on Foreign Relations*.
2. Serwer, D. (2015) “Libya’s Escalating Civil War.” *Council on Foreign Relations*.

### **25 April: Syria**

1. Gordon, P., J. Dobbins, and J. Martini. (2015) “A realistic peace plan for Syria needs to begin with an immediate ceasefire.” *Washington Post*.
2. Zenko, Micah. (2015). “Your official mission creep timeline of the U.S. war in Syria.” *Foreign Policy*.

### **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.