

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

**Prof. Bethany Lacina**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 - 10:15**  
**Hutchison Hall 473**

Civil war is by far the most common form of armed conflict in the contemporary world. 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.

## **Instructor**

Bethany Lacina (she/her)  
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Office hours: Mondays, 12–2

## **Course Requirements**

1. Students should attend every class. There will be a chance to earn extra credit for regular attendance.
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 Office of Disability Resources in advance of the examinations (see <http://www.rochester.edu/college/disability/index.html>). Students will not be able to obtain 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**

**Aug 25 Introduction to the course**

**Aug 30 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>

**Sept 1 Class 2: 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/qk1qy1l2ju444t7/Gelvin\\_Chp3\\_Yemen\\_Libya.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qk1qy1l2ju444t7/Gelvin_Chp3_Yemen_Libya.pdf?dl=0)

**Sept 6 No class**

**Sept 8 Class 3: 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/uz81l6hqa5g9lhe/FearonLaitin.pdf?dl=0>

**Sept 13 Class 4: 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/mt9w2lxnq4j5rho/Breaking\\_the\\_conflict\\_trap\\_93to97\\_100to118.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/mt9w2lxnq4j5rho/Breaking_the_conflict_trap_93to97_100to118.pdf?dl=0)

**Sept 15 Class 5: 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/5r5utn4u96etg92/LounsburyPearson\\_CivilWars83103\\_114116.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/5r5utn4u96etg92/LounsburyPearson_CivilWars83103_114116.pdf?dl=0)

### **Sept 20 Class 6: How will climate change influence civil war?**

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

Selby, Jan, Omar S. Dahi, Christiane Fröhlich, Mike Hulme. 2017. “Climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited.” *Political Geography*. (13 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/r68i7quyfc5xcez/Selby\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Syria.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/r68i7quyfc5xcez/Selby_Climate_Change_Syria.pdf?dl=0)

Hendrix, Cullen S. 2017. “A comment on ‘climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited.’” *Political Geography*. (2 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/e4h0zp6ogfsbkmn/Hendrix\\_CommentPH2017.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/e4h0zp6ogfsbkmn/Hendrix_CommentPH2017.pdf?dl=0)

### **Sept 22 Class 7: 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)

### **Sept 27 Review session**

### **Sept 29 Midterm I**

### **Oct 4 Class 8: 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)

### **Oct 6 Class 9: 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>

**Oct 11 No class**

**Oct 13 Class 10: 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/5fqrjyb2t5ihcb4/HumanSecurityReport\\_15to39.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/5fqrjyb2t5ihcb4/HumanSecurityReport_15to39.pdf?dl=0)

**Oct 18 Class 11: 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>

**Oct 20 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>

**Oct 25 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)

**Oct 27 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>

**Nov 1 Class 15: The 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>

**Nov 3 Review session**

**Nov 8 Midterm II**

**Nov 10 Class 16: 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)

**Nov 15 Class 17: Latin America after the Cold War**

*Reading to complete before class (14 pages):*

Kurtenbach, Sabine. 2019. "The limits of peace in Latin America." *Peacebuilding*. (14 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pbo4djw90697uo9/Kurtenbach%20limits%20of%20peace%20in%20Latin%20America.pdf?dl=0>

**Nov 17 Class 18: Civil war and the international system after 9/11**

*Reading to complete before class (34 pages):*

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/dwvrqolkgs2ovdc/MuellerStewart\\_IntlSecurity.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/dwvrqolkgs2ovdc/MuellerStewart_IntlSecurity.pdf?dl=0)

**Nov 22 Class 19: Iraq and the new Middle East**

*Reading to complete before class (35 pages):*

Haass, Richard N. 2006. “The New Middle East.” *Foreign Affairs*. (10 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/55rgmq14adwjmdv/Haas\\_New\\_Middle\\_East.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/55rgmq14adwjmdv/Haas_New_Middle_East.pdf?dl=0)

Gelvin, James. 2020. *The New Middle East: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. Selections. (25 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/u6z1mczy1axc4zk/Gelvin\\_The\\_New\\_Middle\\_East\\_SelectionsChp1\\_Chp4.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/u6z1mczy1axc4zk/Gelvin_The_New_Middle_East_SelectionsChp1_Chp4.pdf?dl=0)

**Nov 24 Class 20: The internationalized civil war in Syria**

*Reading to complete before class (32 pages):*

Gelvin, James. 2020. *The New Middle East: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 3. (32 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/ijp9zvwz1v82oiv/Gelvin\\_The\\_New\\_Middle\\_East\\_The\\_Syria\\_Imbrogio.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ijp9zvwz1v82oiv/Gelvin_The_New_Middle_East_The_Syria_Imbrogio.pdf?dl=0)

**Nov 29 No class**

**Dec 1 Class 21: Authoritarianism and the prospects for peace**

*Reading to complete before class (50 pages):*

Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon. 2020. *Exit from Hegemony: The Unravelling of American Global Order*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 4. (30 pages) [https://www.dropbox.com/s/3ffyd7osi8p7o0/Cooley\\_Nexon\\_Exit\\_from\\_Hegemony\\_chapter4.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/3ffyd7osi8p7o0/Cooley_Nexon_Exit_from_Hegemony_chapter4.pdf?dl=0)

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>

**Dec 6 Class 22: Future international interventions in civil war**

*Reading to complete before class (29 pages):*

James D. Fearon. 2017. "Civil War and the Current International System." *Daedalus*. (15 pages) [https://doi.org/10.1162/DAED\\_a.00456](https://doi.org/10.1162/DAED_a.00456)

Richard Gowan and Stephen John Stedman. 2018. "The International Regime for Treating Civil War, 1988–2017." *Daedalus*. (14 pages) [https://doi.org/10.1162/DAED\\_a.00482](https://doi.org/10.1162/DAED_a.00482)

**Dec 8 Final review session**

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