

IR/PSC 265: Civil War and the International System

Prof. Bethany Lacina
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:40 - 10:55
Bausch and Lomb 269

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
Email: blacina@ur.rochester.edu
Office: Harkness 334
Office hours: Tuesdays, 1-3

Course Requirements

1. Students should attend every class. There will be a chance to earn extra credit during some class sessions.
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.

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 31 Introduction to the course

Sept 5 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 7 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

Sept 12 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/uz8116hqa5g9lhe/FearonLaitin.pdf?dl=0>

Sept 14 Class 4: All civil wars have domestic components

Reading to complete before class (31 pages):

Blair, Robert A., and Nicholas Sambanis. 2020. "Forecasting Civil Wars: Theory and Structure in an Age of 'Big Data' and Machine Learning." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (31 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/b4i3ffjc1h6f39d/blair-sambanis-2020.pdf?dl=0>

Sept 19 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

Lounsbery, 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/LounsberyPearson_CivilWars83103_114116.pdf?dl=0

Sept 21 Class 6: 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

Sept 26 Review session

Sept 28 Midterm I

Oct 3 Class 7: 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

Oct 5 Class 8: 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 10 Class 9: 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/5fqrvjb2t5ihcb4/HumanSecurityReport_15to39.pdf?dl=0

Oct 12 Class 10: 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

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/7tsdtieez0u6gux/KalyvasBalcells.pdf?dl=0>

Oct 17 No class

Oct 19 Class 11: Africa's world war

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 24 Class 12: 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_Chp4_Redacted_2017.pdf?dl=0

Oct 26 Class 13: 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

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>

Oct 31 Class 14: 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 2 Review session

Nov 7 Midterm II

Nov 9 Class 15: 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

Nov 14 Class 16: 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 16 Class 17: 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

Nov 21 No class

Nov 23 No class

Nov 28 Class 18: The new Middle East

Reading to complete before class (42 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

Gelvin, James. 2020. *The New Middle East: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 3. (32 pages) https://www.dropbox.com/s/ijp9zvzw1v82oiv/Gelvin_The_New_Middle_East_The_Syria_Imbroglia.pdf?dl=0

Nov 30 Class 19: Separatism and the Russian invasion of Ukraine

Reading to complete before class (17 pages):

Hauter, Jakob. 2019. "Delegated Interstate War: Introducing an Addition to Armed Conflict Typologies." *Journal of Strategic Security*. (17 pages) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/nxdbqd0jtt9n39x/Hauter-DelegatedInterstateWar-2019.pdf?dl=0>

Dec 5 Class 20: The current international system

Reading to complete before class (30 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

Dec 7 Class 21: Prospects for peace

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

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

Dec 12 Final review session

Final exam at time and place determined by registrar