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## **Civil Conflict PS 439G:002 Fall 2012**

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**Primary Instructor:** Dr. Clayton Thyne  
**Office:** 1625 Patterson Office Tower  
**Office Hours:** 10:30am-12:00pm (or by appointment)  
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**Phone:** 859-257-6958  
**Meeting time/location:** MWF 1-1:50pm; Whitehall CB Rm. 214

### **Course Description**

This course exposes students to the burgeoning academic literature on civil wars, concentrating on the causes, duration, management, and consequences of civil wars. The first part of the class examines factors that make civil wars more or less likely to occur, such as greed, grievance, ethnic conflict, economic development, income, and regime type. These factors are studied in the context of several case studies of prominent civil wars. The second part of the course focuses on factors that increase or decrease the length or duration of civil wars including rebel group motivations, rebel group financing, misperceptions, commitment problems, military factors, and state capacity. The final section of the class seeks to understand the frequency and success of third party conflict management in civil wars and the broader internal and external consequences of civil wars, including economic growth, economic development, public health, education, and democratization.

This course is meant to promote two levels of understanding. First, each session will focus on a facet of civil war from a scientific standpoint. To do this, we will read published journal articles with innovative theories and sophisticated empirical testing. Second, each session will introduce one or more specific conflicts. These cases are meant to further your understanding of the realities of civil conflict. The bulk of this will be achieved by watching short (usually 10-20 minutes) video clips. Please be aware that these cases are going to present some horrific topics (e.g., mass rape, genocide). You'll see pictures, videos, interviews, etc. that are going to be graphic and hard to watch. If this does not sit well with you, you need to drop this course immediately.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

Your course grade is based on class participation, quizzes, two exams, and a final paper.

1. **Class Attendance and Participation (10%):** This course will be run as an upper division seminar. Each class period will involve a discussion of the readings and audio/video clips assigned for that day. You must come to class and be prepared to discuss each reading. While you are reading the assigned course material, I encourage you to consider the following questions:

- a) What is the research question?
- b) What is the researcher's theoretical argument?
- c) What methods/approach does the author use to try to answer the question?
- d) Is this approach suitable for the question or theory?
- e) If the author provides empirical tests, are the operational measures of the concepts appropriate?
- f) What are the most significant research findings & how do these relate to other course readings?
- g) To what degree do you think the researcher has answered his/her research questions?

In regards to attendance, I expect you to come to every session to get full participation points. I will pass around an attendance sheet daily, which you'll have to sign. You will lose 20% of your attendance grade for each unexcused absence (i.e., after 5 absences, the best you can do in this course is a 90%). You must have documentation for an absence to be excused for an illness. Given the massive number of potential excuses, I will deal with all other excuses on a case-by-case basis using the "reasonable man" standard (e.g., grandma passing away, scholarship interview=excused; tailgating horse races, massive hangover=unexcused).

2. Research Paper (25%): You will write a research paper that applies concepts and theories discussed in the course to a specific civil war. I will distribute a description of the paper assignment on the first day of class and post a copy on the course Blackboard site. You must turn in your paper using Blackboard. Any paper turned in late will be penalized 10% for every 12 hours, or part thereof, that the paper is late.

3. Examinations (25% each): There are two exams in this course, a midterm exam and a final exam (not comprehensive). Your exams will be delivered and completed using Blackboard. You will not have to come to class on exam dates. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies. You should make every reasonable effort to contact me before the exam or you will receive zero credit.

4. Quizzes (15%): You will have five announced quizzes throughout the semester. The quiz dates are listed in the course schedule below. While the exams will ask you to think deeply about the readings (i.e., be mostly essay), the quizzes are simply meant to make sure you are covering the course content (i.e., reading the assigned readings, watching the assigned videos). Thus, the questions will be multiple-choice and relatively easy. The quizzes will be delivered on Blackboard. You do have to show up to class on quiz dates.

Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

- A 100% - 90%
- B 89.9% - 80%
- C 79.9% - 70%
- D 69.9% - 60%
- E 59.9% - 0%

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, **ALL COURSE WORK MUST BE COMPLETED**. Any student who does not complete the Research Paper, or take both the

Midterm and the Final Exam, will receive an automatic grade of E. A student wishing to appeal any grade given in this class must make their request in writing prior to meeting with the instructor. The written appeal must be typed and clearly state the reason(s) the student feels the grade they received is incorrect. Appeals that just ask for more points will not be considered by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire exam or assignment once an appeal is made, this may result in an increase or decrease in the score a student receives.

## **Required Readings**

You need to purchase nothing for this class. All readings, videos, etc. will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

## **Absences**

An absence will be considered unexcused unless you give me documentation of the absence as defined by the University. For more information, please see Student Rights and Responsibilities, Part II, Section 5.2.4.2 (<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) for UK's policy on excused absences.

## **Missed Exams**

Make-up exams (for missed examinations) will only be given for documented excused absences as defined by the University (Senate Rule V.2.4.2) and are scheduled as needed. A missed exam will result in a score of zero for that exam, unless an acceptable written excuse is presented within 48 hours of the missed examination.

## **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students are advised to retain all notes and drafts for all work until after they receive their final grade. Students should also be aware that the instructor takes matters of plagiarism and cheating very seriously and is prone to imposing the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes, but is not limited to, issuing an automatic grade of 0.0 for the entire course. All assignments, projects, and exercises completed by students for this class should be the product of the personal efforts of the individual(s) whose name(s) appear on the corresponding assignment. Misrepresenting others' work as one's own in the form of cheating or plagiarism is unethical and will lead to those penalties outlined in the University Senate Rules (6.3.1 & 6.3.2). The Ombud site also has information on plagiarism.

For more information, please see the home page for the Office of Academic Ombud Services (<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>) for a definition of plagiarism, how to avoid plagiarism and UK's new academic offense policy.

You may also check out the Student Rights and Responsibilities, Part II, Section 6.3 (<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) for UK's policy on academic integrity.

## **Student Conduct**

Students are expected to maintain decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, to regularly log in to the course, and to display an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. All students are expected to be prepared to work and actively participate in class activities.

## **Disabilities/ Medical Conditions**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, [jkarnes@uky.edu](mailto:jkarnes@uky.edu)) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities. We can then collaborate on the best solution.

## **Classroom Expectations**

I expect all students to behave professionally in this class. If you miss a class you are still responsible for the information covered, the teaching assistant and the instructor will not provide you with their notes. I expect all students who attend class to arrive on time and ready to start class. It is disrespectful to the instructor and your classmates to show up late or leave early. During class please refrain from all disruptive behavior, including (but not limited to) reading newspapers, sleeping, talking during lecture, cell phone and pager use, and insulting classmate or instructors.

Please be aware that the instructor's pet peeve is students packing up their stuff before class ends. I will never keep you late for class because it is rude to assume that my lecture is more important than your time. Likewise, I will consider it rude if you assume that packing up your items is more important than my lecture. In regards to cell phones, it is absolutely rude to text or talk on the phone during class. That being said, I understand that you have lives and issues that may require immediate attention (as do I). If something important arises, please simply remove yourself from class momentarily and take care of the issue.

## **Blackboard**

This course utilizes Blackboard for essentially all facets of the course (quizzes, exams, readings, videos). You are expected to check Blackboard regularly for all information pertaining to this course. Below you will find minimum technology requirements that you will need to access and use Blackboard. It is your responsibility to obtain these requirements.

## Course Schedule

### Section I: Introduction

08/22	Course introduction
08/24	What is a civil war?
08/27	Why should we care about civil wars?
08/29	Cases-1: Libya, Sierra Leone, Congo, Bosnia, Peru
08/31	No class – APSA conference
09/03	No class – Labor Day
09/05	Understanding scientific research
09/07	Understanding scientific research (continued)
09/07-09/09	Quiz 1; from 2pm on 09/07 until 11pm on 09/08; covers topics from 08/22 to 09/07

### Section II: Civil War Onset

09/10	Psychological factors
09/12	Greed and grievance
09/14	Cases-2: Middle East, Sierra Leone
09/17	Ethnicity and insurgency
09/19	Resources and civil war 1
09/21	Cases-3: Sudan
09/24	Resources and civil war 2
09/24-09/25	Quiz 2; from 2pm on 09/24 until 11pm on 09/25; covers topics from 09/10 to 09/24
09/26	The geography of civil war
09/28	Cases-4: Israel, Angola
10/01	Ethnicity and conflict
10/03	Democracy and civil war
10/05	Cases-5: India, Chechnya, Iran, Kenya
10/08	Separatist and non-separatist wars
10/08-10/09	Quiz 3 from 2pm on 10/08 until 11pm on 10/09; covers topics from 09/26 to 10/08
10/10	Diffusion of civil wars
10/12	No class – optional individual meetings
10/15	Cases-6: Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Congo
10/17	Transnational forces
10/19-10/20	No class – Midterm exam; from 6am on 10/19 to 11pm on 10/20; covers topics from Sections I-II (exam will be taken on Blackboard)

**Section III: Civil war duration, outcomes, and consequences**

10/22	How civil wars end
10/24	Civil war duration 1
10/26	Cases-7: Iraq, Somalia, Libya, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan
10/29	Civil war duration 2
10/31	Civil war duration 3
11/02	Cases-8: Colombia, China
11/02-11/03	Quiz 4 from 2pm on 11/02 until 11pm on 11/03; covers topics from 10/22 to 11/02
11/05	Civil war outcomes
11/07	Civil war recurrence
11/09	Cases-9: Northern Ireland, Liberia, Sierra Leone
11/12	Health and social consequences
11/12-11/13	Quiz 5 from 2pm on 11/12 until 11pm on 11/13; covers topics from 11/05 to 11/12

**Section IV: Civil Wars and Policy**

11/14	The conflict trap 1
11/16	Cases-10: Uganda, Congo, DRC
11/19	Research papers due; Review; catch up
11/26	The conflict trap 2
11/28	Peacekeeping
11/30	Cases-11: UN, Balkans
12/03	Institutions
12/05	Partition
12/07	Cases-12: Burundi, Rwanda, Iraq
12/10	Final exam; from 6am to 11pm on 12/10 (75 minute exam); covers topics from Sections III-IV; no class today (exam will be taken on Blackboard)