

GVPT 808B: Selected Topics in Functional Problems in International Relations;
Conflict and World Politics
Spring 2019

Class Time: Tuesdays 9:30am-12:15pm
Class Location: TYD 1136

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Office: 2117F Chincoteague Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30pm-5pm

Other times by appointment

1. About the course

This graduate seminar centers on the study of conflict. We will engage with major theoretical concepts related to the outbreak and resolution of conflict, as well as theories related to conflict processes such as recruitment, human rights abuses, and repression. Rather than focusing on categories of approaches, we will examine extant literature by topic of interest. This course favors significant recent advances in these literatures, though we will delve into the roots of each research agenda in discussion as well.

2. Participation and written work

1. Seminar attendance and active participation in discussion throughout the semester is required. Students are expected to be on time and to have completed the assigned readings. Each week (starting 2/7), someone will serve as our discussant, and will begin class with a brief presentation. Discussants should (1) identify areas of consensus or near-consensus in the readings, (2) identify areas of debate, (3) provide feedback on other students' response papers, and (4) conclude with some discussion questions based on the readings for the class. Everyone will serve as discussant 3 times. Participation will comprise 60% of the grade.¹
2. Each student is expected to complete a 1-page response paper which addresses two or more of the readings each week (from 2/5 – 5/14). This will be turned in via ELMS by **9am on the Sunday before class**. Discussants are excused from writing response papers in their assigned weeks. Each student will write 11 response papers. Your 10 best papers will comprise 40% of the course grade.

¹ There will be one week this semester when two students are assigned the role of discussant. One student will do the presentation, the other will share a memo with the information they would have presented to the class.

3. Code of conduct

As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://osc.umd.edu/OSC/Default.aspx>

4. Students with disabilities

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office. Students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide us with documentation or have not had that documentation reviewed by DSS early in the semester cannot be accommodated.

5. Religious Observance

By the end of February students must provide in writing a request for accommodation with respect to required assignments if the syllabus indicates a date when you are unable to attend due to a specific religious observance.

6. Schedule and Readings

Students should access readings through the University of Maryland Library access unless otherwise indicated. These readings are subject to change. Any changes will be posted on ELMS.

1/29: Introduction

For the first meeting on January 29 the syllabus and course requirements will be reviewed and discussed as well as the general format for the seminar. Students will also introduce themselves. We will get down to work with assigned readings and a full seminar discussion on February 5.

2/5: Studying conflict

- Lemke, Douglas. "Power Politics and Wars Without States." 2008. *American Journal of Political Science*. 52(4):774-786
- Lemke, Douglas and David Cunningham, "Combining Civil and Interstate Wars" *International Organization* 67,3 (2013):609-27.
- Fearon, James D. "Rationalist explanations for war." *International organization* 49, 03 (1995): 379-414.
- Lake, David. Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War, *International Security* 35, 3 (2010-11): 7-52.

2/12: Concepts and findings in territorial disputes

- Conflict Management and Peace Science September 2006 vol. 23 no. 4. Read the entire special issue.
- Huth, Paul K., Sarah E. Croco and Benjamin J. Appel, "Bringing Law to the Table: Legal Claims, Bargaining Leverage and the Settlement of Territorial Disputes Since 1945", *The American Journal of Political Science* 57,1 (2012): 90-103
- Allee, Todd and Paul K. Huth. "Domestic Political Accountability and the Escalation and Settlement of Territorial Disputes." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46, 6 (2002): 754-790.

2/19: Civil war onset

- Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. "Ethnicity, insurgency, and civil war." *American political science review* 97.01 (2003): 75-90.
- Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. "Greed and grievance in civil war." *Oxford economic papers* 56.4 (2004): 563-595.
- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. "Why do ethnic groups rebel? New data and analysis." *World Politics* 62.01 (2010): 87-119.
- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Nils B. Weidmann, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. "Horizontal inequalities and ethnonationalist civil war: A global comparison." *American Political Science Review* 105.03 (2011): 478-495.
- Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher. "Actor fragmentation and civil war bargaining: How internal divisions generate civil conflict." *American Journal of Political Science* 57.3 (2013): 659-672.

2/26: Civil war duration

- Cunningham, David E. *Barriers to peace in civil war*. Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Cunningham, David E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Idean Salehyan. "It takes two: A dyadic analysis of civil war duration and outcome." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2009).

3/5: Regime type and conflict

- Weeks, Jessica L. "Autocratic audience costs: Regime type and signaling resolve." *International Organization* 62.01 (2008): 35-64.
- Weeks, Jessica L. "Strongmen and straw men: Authoritarian regimes and the initiation of international conflict." *American Political Science Review* 106.02 (2012): 326-347.
- Davenport, Christian, and David A. Armstrong. "Democracy and the violation of human rights: A statistical analysis from 1976 to 1996." *American Journal of Political Science* 48.3 (2004): 538-554.
- Croco, Sarah E., "The Decider's Dilemma: Leader Culpability, Domestic Politics and War Termination", *The American Political Science Review* 105, 3 (2011): 457-77

- Hegre, Håvard. “Toward a democratic civil peace? Democracy, political change, and civil war, 1816–1992.” *American Political Science Review*. Vol. 95. No. 01. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

3/12: Economics and conflict

- Nam Kyu Kim, “Testing Two Explanations of the Liberal Peace” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58,5 (2014):894-919.
- Brandon Kline, “Multilateral Trade and Militarized Conflict: Centrality, Openness, and Asymmetry in the Global Trade Network” *Journal of Politics* 74,1 (2012):308-22.
- Lars-Erik Cederman, Nils Weidmann, Kristian Gleditsch, “Horizontal Inequalities and Ethnonationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison” *American Political Science Review* 105,3 (2011):478-495.
- Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein, “Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War” *American Journal of Political Science* 52,2 (2008):436-55.
- Graeme Blair et al, “Poverty and Support for Militant Politics” *American Journal of Political Science* 57,1 (2013):30-48.

3/19: No class (Spring Break)

3/26: Conflict across borders

- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Luc Girardin, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. “Ethnonationalist triads: Assessing the influence of kin groups on civil wars.” *World Politics* 61.03 (2009): 403-437. Ethnic Triads
- Jenne, Erin. “A bargaining theory of minority demands: Explaining the dog that did not bite in 1990s Yugoslavia.” *International Studies Quarterly* 48.4 (2004): 729-754.
- Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede. “Transnational dimensions of civil war.” *Journal of Peace Research* 44.3 (2007): 293-309.
- Buhaug, Halvard, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. “Contagion or confusion? Why conflicts cluster in space1.” *International Studies Quarterly* 52.2 (2008): 215-233.
- Braithwaite, Alex. “Resisting infection: How state capacity conditions conflict contagion.” *Journal of Peace Research* 47.3 (2010): 311-319.

4/2: Victory and defeat in war

- Lyall, Jason, “Do democracies make inferior counterinsurgents? Reassessing democracy’s impact on war outcomes and duration” *International Organization* 64,1 (2010):167-92.
- Lyall, Jason and Isaiah Wilson, “Rage against the machines: Explaining outcomes in counterinsurgency wars” *International Organization* 63,1 (2009):67-106.
- Fortna, Virginia Page, “Do terrorists win? Rebel’s use of terrorism and civil war outcomes” *International Organization* 69,3 (2015):519-56.
- Thomas, Jakana, “Rewarding bad behavior” *American Journal of Political Science* 58, 4 (2014):804-818.

- Croco, Sarah E. and Jessica L.P. Weeks. “War Outcome and Leader Tenure” *World Politics* 68, 4 (2016)

4/9: Civilian victimization

- Downes, Alexander B. “Desperate times, desperate measures: The causes of civilian victimization in war.” *International Security* 30.4 (2006): 152-195.
- Valentino, Benjamin, Paul Huth, and Dylan Balch-Lindsay, “Draining The Sea: Mass Killing and Guerrilla Warfare” *International Organization* 58, 2 (2004): 375-407.
- Wood, Reed M. “Opportunities to kill or incentives for restraint? Rebel capabilities, the origins of support, and civilian victimization in civil war.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 31.5 (2014): 461-480.
- Cohen, Dara Kay. “Explaining rape during civil war: Cross-national evidence (1980–2009).” *American Political Science Review* 107.03 (2013): 461-477.
- Sawyer, Katherine, Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham and Kanisha Bond. Rebel Leaders and Sexual Violence. Working paper.

4/16: Non-state actors

- Bakke, Kristin M., Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham, and Lee JM Seymour. “A plague of initials: Fragmentation, cohesion, and infighting in civil wars.” *Perspectives on Politics* 10.02 (2012): 265-283.
- Special issue on Non-state Actors, Fragmentation and Conflict Processes. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* February 2012 vol. 56 no. 1. [Read the entire special issue.](#)
- Carey, Sabine C., Michael P. Colaresi, and Neil J. Mitchell. “Governments, informal links to militias, and accountability.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2015): 0022002715576747.

4/23: Civil resistance

- Stephan, Maria J., and Erica Chenoweth. “Why civil resistance works: The strategic logic of nonviolent conflict.” *International Security* 33.1 (2008): 7-44.
- Pearlman, Wendy. *Violence, nonviolence, and the Palestinian national movement*. Cambridge University Press, 2011. Chapters 1 – 2. [I will post on ELMS]
- Special Issue on Understanding Nonviolent Resistance (2013). *Journal of Peace Research* vol 50 no. 3. [Read the entire special issue.](#)

4/30: Deterrence and repression

- Paul Huth, "Deterrence and International Conflict" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2, 25-48.
- Alex Weisiger and Keren Yarhi-Milo, “Revisiting Reputation” *International Organization* 69,2 (2015):473-95.
- Jan Pierskalla, “Protest, Deterrence, and Escalation: The Strategic Calculus of Government Repression” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54,1 (2010):117-45.

- Emily Ritter, “Policy Disputes, Political Survival, and the Onset and Severity of State Repression” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58,1 (2014):143-68.
- Davenport, Christian. “State repression and political order.” *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 10 (2007): 1-23.

5/7: Environment and war

- Special issue on climate and conflict. *Journal of Peace Research* January 2012 vol. 49 no. 1. Read the entire special issue.
- Warming increases the risk of civil war in Africa. Burke et al. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*. vol. 106 no. 49, 20670–20674, doi: 10.1073/pnas.0907998106.
- Buhaug, Halvard. 2014. [Concealing agreements over climate-conflict results](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 111(6): E636. [Open access]
- Reconciling disagreement over climate–conflict results in Africa. Solomon M. Hsiang and Kyle Meng. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 111(6). Solomon M. Hsiang, 2100–2103, doi: 10.1073/pnas.1316006111

5/14: Conflict resolution

- Fortna, Virginia Page. “Does peacekeeping keep peace? International intervention and the duration of peace after civil war.” *International studies quarterly* 48.2 (2004): 269-292.
- Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon. “Beyond keeping peace: United Nations effectiveness in the midst of fighting.” *American Political Science Review* 108.04 (2014): 737-753.
- Walter, Barbara F. “The critical barrier to civil war settlement.” *International organization* 51.03 (1997): 335-364.
- Beardsley, Kyle, David E. Cunningham, and Peter B. White. “Resolving Civil Wars before they Start: The UN Security Council and Conflict Prevention in Self-Determination Disputes.” *British Journal of Political Science* (2014): 1-23.
- Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher, Katherine Sawyer and William Reed. “The Role of External Support in Civil War Termination.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61, 6 (2015): 1174–1202.