POLS 6043-180: GRADUATE SEMINAR: CIVIL WARS
FALL 2012

Instructor: Nara, Suguman
Office Hours: M: 7.20-9.20 pm
             T: 3.20-4.20 pm; 8.20-9.20 pm
             W: 7.20-9.20 pm
             R: 3.20-4.20 pm; 8.20-9.20 pm
             F: 3.00-5.00 pm
Class Meets at: PY 209 (when meeting physically on Saturdays)
Time: TBA
Email: sugumaran.narayanan@mwsu.edu
Official Homepage: http://faculty.mwsu.edu/politicalscience/sugumaran.narayanan

Course Description

This course is a graduate study of the major theories and ideas in the study of worldwide
civil wars and the politics of conflict. It covers both the qualitative and quantitative
approaches to the study of civil wars. If time permits we will also analyze articles
employing formal or game theory. This course will online and discussions as well as
physical meetings on some days. It will cover theories and ideas of quite a number of
different scholars and views.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students are required to have a grasp of the above. At the
end of the course students are required to be able to identify key concepts and terms in
civil war study. Further, the student should exhibit an ability to apply these in explaining
development within the field. In addition, students are also required to understand and
analyze political events and trends. Hopefully, what has been learned may give you a
better understanding of what happens within the country and outside, and the questions
posed by political scientists, etc. The reading assignments should prepare you for related
graduate level courses in political science and government, and PhD level courses. The
writing assignment/term paper is designed to improve both your scholarly-writing skills
as well as research skills. At the end of the semester, students must have at least a
minimal, basic understanding of how to apply statistical packages to analyze civil wars
and political conflict. Since this is a theoretical course, students should not expect what
has been learned here to substantially aid them in a profession that requires field training,
such as in a federal government policy job.
**Required Texts**

**Required books:**

Statecraft (Online resource)

Writing in Political Science: A Practical Guide, 4th edition or later. Diane Schmidt (Required by the Political Science department)

**Supplementary/Reference:**


Understanding Ethnic Conflict. Taras and Ganguly. 4th ed. 2010


**Other Supplementary Materials**

The instructor will recommend books, articles, and other reading materials in the course of the semester. A list of journal articles and books will be provided.

**Some Important Expectations**

Each member of the class will show due respect for one another. Ideas may be challenged, but individual attacks are unacceptable. I will not tolerate rude and/or abusive language in class. A student who makes fun of the instructor directly or indirectly, for example, in the form of a slang or a jargon will be dealt with seriously. I will also not tolerate any other unacceptable behavior in class, for example, the habit of talking to others when the instructor is talking, or while another student is engaged in a discussion with the instructor. Whistling while class is in session is another example of distracting behavior. It is impossible to list all disturbing behavior so it is naturally expected of you, as members of institutions of higher learning to understand what constitutes appropriate behavior or otherwise. In keeping with the theme of respect, all students must adhere to the code of academic conduct in order to maintain appropriate and acceptable conduct when class is in session (Please read the Student Handbook).
In addition, students are also required to understand the seriousness of plagiarism in the academic world. Failure to do so, as evidenced by plagiarism or other honor violations will result in a failing grade or more serious consequences.

**Note:** No person will be discriminated based on age, race, religion, national origin, sex, or disability. (Any student with a disability certified by the University disability office should notify the instructor immediately for proper arrangements to be made).

**Course Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>20% (You are allowed one absence). For every additional absence on the Saturday meetings, 5 percentage points will be deducted from the overall attendance points.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50% Points will be awarded for quality assignments, assignments returned to the instructor in a timely manner, as well as participation during physical meetings. Points for assignments are based on five out of the many assigned readings. Each of the five assignments carries a maximum of 8 points (total 40 points) while physical participation carries a maximum of 10 points. However the 1st assignment is based on 3 different readings. Subsequent assignments are based on only a single reading each.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>30% The objective is to ensure ability to write a quality graduate paper and the ability to understand search techniques, correct style of scholarly writing, avoiding plagiarism, etc. Papers must adhere strictly to requirements- Page numbering, Paper length, Introduction and Conclusion, Scholarly style, stapled (not clips), and not late. Failure to follow this can result in either reduced paper grade or fail (Will be discussed in greater detail in class).</td>
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Note: The instructor reserves the right to deduct points from the overall/total points for students who violate any part of the “Some Important Expectations” section above. There may or may not be prior warning about losing points.

Make-ups

Make-ups for late assignments will only be given if you miss the deadline due to official reasons, for example, a medical emergency. It will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Official proof is required. The same requirements apply to term papers.

Course Overview

Lecture notes and reading assignments are based on the following. This serves as a general outline of the course topics and flow. You should expect some modifications.


3: Power Politics: the Morgenthau reading (Balance of Power), the Mearsheimer reading. Introduction to Civil Wars—Types, Schools of Thoughts, etc. How are the above connected to civil wars.


6: The Clash of Civilizations. The COC and onset of civil wars.

7: Ethnicity, Culture, Religion and Civil War

8: Terrorism
   Islam and Civil War
“The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” in American Political Science Review 2003 August, 97:3

9: Asian Civil Wars

Readings (most of these attached with email. Those that are not will be emailed later): (5 out of these will be assigned for your written assignments for the awarding of points):

Instructor Notes/Power Points

Themner and Wallensteen 2011: “Armed Conflict”

Dixon 2009: “What Causes Civil Wars?”

Narayanan and DeRouen 2010: “The Onset of Civil War”

Gurr 1994: “People Against States”

Fearon and Laitin 2003: “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War”

Collier and Hoeffler 2002: “Greed and Grievance in Civil War”

Ross 2004: “What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil War”

Morgenthau: “Politics Among Nations”/“Six Principles of Political Realism”


Hegre et al 2002: “Is there Civil Peace?”


Pape 2003: “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” in American Political Science Review 2003 August, 97:3

Websites to Look at (to help you understand the subject):

Peace Research Institute Norway: www.prio.no

The Correlates of War website: www.correlatesofwar.org

Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University: http://www.pcr.uu.se/
(for the datasets, [http://www.pcr.uu.se/data/](http://www.pcr.uu.se/data/))

**Note:**

Week 13: Thanksgiving Break (November 21-25; return November 26th).

Last day of class for all classes: Friday, December 7, 2012