Civil war is a subject of scholarly study as old as the field of political science itself. The topic has taken on a new prominence, however, in the post-cold war international environment, and academic research has exploded in the past 15 years. Although the topic is by definition in the field of comparative politics – civil wars are wars that are internal to a particular country and its sovereign borders – this definition does not reflect the reality of contemporary civil wars, including structural causes located in globalization, their regional and transnational dynamics, and the new normative consensus internationally on both the right and the responsibility to intervene to stop the violence. Moreover, as war, students of international relations are also deeply engaged in its study, including current interest in the changing character of war.

So, in fact, the literature on civil wars does cross back and forth between comparative politics and international relations, and in its course, reveals their very different theoretical and research approaches to a subject and exposes both the fuzziness of the boundary between the two subfields and the immense differences of mind-set and difficulty of doing genuinely interdisciplinary work. Students in the seminar are free to choose which literatures of political science are most of interest to their study and research, even though the seminar itself is classified as a course in comparative politics.

This is a research seminar, which means that the readings and discussion will aim to make the student as knowledgeable about the literature, its debates, unanswered questions, and research frontiers on this topic as possible, while the goal is a research project and paper. Students should be warned that the best of this literature is based on case studies, wonderfully rich but detailed and lengthy.

Grading will be based on four responsibilities:

- one page, or less, summary of the arguments in the readings for each seminar session, to be handed in at the time of that session
- informed participation in the discussion of the readings for that session
• providing resident expertise for the seminar on one country case, contributing
to the discussion with examples from that case or the literature on that case, as
the discussion requires
• a final research paper, due December 21.

Writing assignment deadlines:
1. weekly, a brief summary of the arguments of the readings for that session
2. September 28: research topic due, preferably as a question if you can
4. October 12: your research question due
5. December 7: a 10-minute (maximum) presentation of the argument of your research paper
6. December 21: research paper due

Books you may wish to purchase:
I have not ordered these books at a local bookstore because I prefer to give our library the benefit of orders on Amazon placed through the Mina Rees site. You will all differ, as well, in what you want to purchase because of your needs for your research project and for the choice you make for your country expertise. Much of the readings, as well, are journal articles and working papers. You may, however, wish to purchase the following (all are in paperback):


David Keen, *Conflict and Collusion in Sierra Leone* (New York: Palgrave 2005)


Seminar Schedule

August 31        Introduction: An Overview of the Field

September 7      Definitions: What is Civil War, and does it matter?


Further Reading:
Annual *States in Armed Conflict*, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
Annually, data reported in *Journal of Peace Research*; most recent is:

September 21 “Causes” and Classifications

Stathis N. Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, chapter 3 (pp. 52-86).
Christopher Cramer, *Civil War is not a Stupid Thing/Violence in Developing Countries: War, Memory, Progress* (London: Hurst, 2006/Indiana University Press 2007), chapters 2-3 (chapter 6 if you wish to read further), pp. 49-138.
David Keen, *Conflict and Collusion in Sierra Leone*, chapters 1, 3-4, and 16 (pp.1-7, 36-81, 289-319).


Further Reading:


The UPPSALA/PRIO dataset: ([www.pcr.uu.se/database](http://www.pcr.uu.se/database))


Special Issue of *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49:4 (August 2005) on “Primary Commodities and Civil War”

Donald L. Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*

Russell Hardin, *One for All: The Logic of Group Conflict*

Ted Robert Gurr, *Minorities at Risk: A Global View of Ethnopolitical Conflicts*


September 28 Methodological debates
(quantitative vs. qualitative approaches; macrodynamics vs. microdynamics; intrastate vs. transnational and comparative politics vs. international relations approaches; measures of ethnic conflict)

DUE: Research Topic (better yet, Question) and Country Expertise, in class


Jeffrey T. Checkel, “Transnational Dynamics of Civil War,” mimeo (Simon Fraser University and Centre for the Study of Civil War, PRIO, May 2010).


Stathis N. Kalyvas, The Logic of Violence in Civil War, chapter 2 (pp. 32-51).


Further Reading:


“Mapping and Explaining Civil War: What to Do about Contested Datasets and Findings?” Report of a conference in Oslo, 18-19 August 2003, to be found online at:
October 5  The New Wars Debate

Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era* (Stanford University Press 2006/7), chs. 1, 2, and 5 (pp. 1-32, 95-118)


Further Reading:

Follow the annual Uppsala reports, including *States in Armed Conflict*, on what they call “one-sided violence.”


Small Wars, the journal


October 12  Dynamics


For the maps in color, go to http://www.cambridge.org/us/features/wood (click on the links to figures on the left hand margin)


October 19  Civil War Violence

Stathis Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, introduction, chapters 4, 5, 7, 11, and conclusion (pages 1-15, 87-145, 173-209, 364-392); take a look, at least, at chapters 6, 8, 9, 10 (pages 146-172, 210-363).

Further reading:

October 26
Civil War Economies: Functions or Finance?

David Keen, “Incentives and Disincentives for Violence,” in Mats Berdal and David Malone, eds., Greed and Grievance, pp. 19-41 (if you wish to read further, see his The Economic Functions of Violence in Civil War, Adelphi Paper 320 [Oxford 1998].)
Karen Ballentine and Jake Sherman, eds., The Political Economy of Armed Conflict: Beyond Greed and Grievance (Lynne Rienner 2003), chs. 1, 3, and 10, pp. 1-18, 47-70, 259-282 (if you wish, read case study chapters: on Colombia, Nepal, Bougainville, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, and Burma).
Michael Pugh and Neil Cooper with Jonathan Goodhand, War Economies in a Regional Context: Challenges of Transformation (Lynne Rienner: 2004), ch. 2 (17-44).

Further Reading:
Special Issue of Journal of Conflict Resolution 49:4 (August 2005) on “Primary Commodities and Civil War”

November 2
What role outsiders? the IFIs, donors, US military, intervenors


Further Reading:

- Francesca Bonino and Antonio Donini, “Aid and Violence: Development Policies and Conflict in Nepal,” Background Report, Finstein International Center (June 2009) (available online: fic.tufts.edu)

November 9 Gender and Civil War


Further Reading:


November 16 The organization of civil war


Further Reading:

Marie-Joelle Zahar, Fanatics, Brigands, Mercenaries . . . and Politicians: Militia Decision-Making and Civil Conflict Resolution (PhD dissertation, Political Science, McGill University


Zachariah Cherian Mampilly, Stationary Bandits: Understanding Rebel Governance, PhD dissertation, Department of Political Science UCLA, to be published December 2010 by Cornell University Press as: Rebel Rulers: Insurgent Governance and Civilian Life During War.

November 30 The Consequences of Civil War


Look back at Wood, Insurgent Collective Action

Valery Tishkov, “Understanding Violence for Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Chechnya”

TBA + your findings
December 7  Discussion of Research Papers and Findings

December 21  **Final Research Paper Due**

**Case Studies: Suggestions (slightly idiosyncratic) to get started**

You may also want to subscribe to the daily news reports from the Human Security Project at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, where the Human Security Reports are based; it is a superb source of information on ongoing violent conflict: [hsrpsubs@sfu.ca](mailto:hsrpsubs@sfu.ca)

Afghanistan

Go onto the Chr. Michelsen Institute website and read their publications on Afghanistan ([www.cmi.no](http://www.cmi.no)), including everything by Astri Suhrke


Olivier Roy

Algeria


Angola

Christopher Cramer, *Civil War is Not a Stupid Thing: Accounting for Violence in Developing Countries* (Hurst 2006), chapter 4.

Burundi


Peter Uvin, *Life after Violence: A People’s Story of Burundi* (Zed: 2009)

Colombia

Ana M. Arjona and Stathis N. Kalyvas, “Preliminary Results of a Survey of Demobilized Combatants in Colombia,” May 2006, on Kalyvas’ website at Yale.


Congo, Democratic Republic of (formerly Zaire)

El Salvador

Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia

Haiti (civil war?)
Alex Dupuy, *The Prophet and Power: Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the International Community, and Haiti* (Rowman and Littlefield: 2007)

India (northeast and Kashmir)
Namrata Goswami, on the website of the Institute for Defence and Security Analysis (New Delhi).

Korea

Lebanon

Liberia

Mozambique


Nepal


Arjun Karki and David Seddon, eds., *The People’s War in Nepal: Left Perspectives* (Delhi: Adroit, 2003)


Russia (Northern Caucasus)

Anatol Lieven, *Chechnya: Tombstone of Russian Power*

Valery Tishkov

Charles King and Rajan Menon, “Prisoners of the Caucasus,” *Foreign Affairs* 89:4 (July/August 2010), 20-34.


Rwanda


Bruce Jones, *Peacemaking in Rwanda: The Dynamics of Failure* (Rienner 2001)

Scott Strauss, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda* (Cornell 2006)

Alison des Forges, *Leave None to Tell the Story*

Senegal


Sierra Leone

David Keen, *Conflict and Collusion in Sierra Leone*
Paul Richards, *Fighting for the Rain Forest: War, Youth, and Resources in Sierra Leone* (The International African Institute in association with James Currey and Heineman)

Somalia


Sri Lanka

Jayadeva Uyangoda, as assigned above (and everything else)


Sudan

Francis Deng, *War of Visions: Conflict of Identities in Sudan* (Brookings 1995)


Gunnar Sorbo, [www.cmi.no](http://www.cmi.no)

Timor Leste (actually, an independence struggle; perhaps 2006?)


Yugoslavia


**Countries with armed conflict/civil war since 1990**

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)
Bangladesh
Burma/Myanmar

Burundi
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Cambodia
Central African Republic
Chad
Colombia
Congo\Brazzaville
D.R. Congo (Zaire)
Cote d’Ivoire
Croatia (Prevlaka; Krajina; Eastern Slavonia)
Djibouti
East Timor
Ethiopia
Ethiopia\Eritrea
El Salvador
Fiji
Georgia (Abkhazia; South Ossetia)
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Indonesia (Papua; Aceh; Moluccas)
India (Kashmir; Assam)
Iran
Iraq (Kurds; Shiites; post-US invasion)
Israel\Palestine
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Macedonia
Mali
Mexico (Chiapas)
Moldova (Transnistria)
Mozambique
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Northern Ireland
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Philippines
Russia (Chechnya; north Caucasus)
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain (Basque country)
Sri Lanka
Sudan (North/South; Darfur; East)