CIVIL WAR: DOMESTIC ORIGINS AND GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS
INSTRUCTOR: LEANNE TYLER

MEETING TIME: Tuesdays 6:20-8:50pm
LOCATION: 25 W4th, Room C-8
INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION: Leanne.c.tyler@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will examine the domestic and international aspects of contemporary civil conflict. Since 1945, civil conflict has become the most prevalent form of warfare in the international community. The human, political and economic cost of war makes the analysis of large scale violence essential. For example, weak state infrastructure allows conflict to continue to rage in portions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. South Sudan is rife with conflict, and its population is suffering from mass starvation. Guatemalans are applying global norms of justice as they attempt to prosecute state leaders for wartime crimes. Finally, record numbers of people are fleeing political and economic instability on a global scale. In this class, students will examine the domestic dynamics of civil wars and how factors such as state strength, economic development, regime type, ethnicity and nationalism serve as important causal mechanisms in the initiation of warfare. We will also examine the global effects, which include regional instability, economic depression, refugee flows, and interstate disputes. Other topics include: the organizational identity and operational capacity of rebel organizations, sexual and gender based violence and debates on civil war termination. The geographic scope of the class is quite large as we will examine the dynamics of post-WWII civil conflicts in regions such as Central America, South America, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. We will use specific case studies from the aforementioned regions to help us understand the theoretical and conceptual dynamics of war.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to come to class having read all the required assignments. Each student will be expected to actively engage in our discussion of the course material. Prior study and background knowledge of specific civil wars are not necessary.

GRADING:
Class Participation: 20%
Short Papers 10%
Class Presentation: 10%
Paper Proposal: 10%
Research Paper: * 50%
**SHORT PAPERS:** Students are required to write **two** short (2-3pgs) papers on a reading in which they identify and critique the substantive issues of the article or book. Students are to post the assignment online by 7pm the night before the class so that the peers (and the instructor) have time to read the document. A hard copy is to be submitted to the instructor on the day that we are scheduled to discuss the work (i.e. the next day).

**CLASS PRESENTATION:** Students are required to lead one class discussion on one assigned article.

**CLASS PROPOSAL:** All students must submit a **paper proposal** to me by the 5th class session. I will post instructions for this assignment online.

**FINAL PAPER:** Students will submit a quality research paper at the end of the term. Within the broad confines of writing a paper on civil war, you will have great latitude in selecting your paper topic. You may, for example, write on a particular war, discuss a specific militant organization or critique the literature on civil war termination. Your paper should be between 25 and 30 pages long.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**


**Session One:**
**MEETING DATE:** 9/8/2015
**INTRODUCTION:** Class Overview

**Session Two**
**September 15th**
**WHAT IS A CIVIL WAR?**
**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**

Session Three
September 22nd
HISTORICAL TRENDS and OLD/NEW WARS DEBATE

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


CAUSES OF WAR: MACRO-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS

Session Four
September 29th
STATE STRENGTH, REGIME TYPE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Required Reading:


**Recommended Reading:**


**Session Five PAPER PROPOSALS DUE IN CLASS!!!
October 6th**

**CAUSES OF WAR: MICRO-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS
ETHNICITY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE SECURITY DILEMMA**

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


- Alao, A. “Diamonds are forever...but so also are controversies: Diamonds and the Actors in Sierra Leone's Civil War” Civil War 2(3): 43-69.


Session 6--NO CLASS: University runs according to Monday Schedule

Session Seven
October 20th
ORGANIZATIONAL IDENTITY OF MILITANT FACTIONS
Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Session Eight
October 27th
GLOBALIZATION AND CIVIL WAR
Required Reading:


Session Nine
November 3rd
MILITANT FACTIONS AND THE USE OF FORCE (PART ONE)
Required Reading:

Session Ten
November 10th
MILITANT FACTIONS AND THE USE FORCE (PART TWO)
Required Reading:


Recommended Reading

Session Eleven
November 17th
ENDING WAR: NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, MILITARY VICTORY AND DECAPITATION
Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Session Twelve
November 24th
ENDING WAR: PEACEKEEPING
Required Reading:


**Thanksgiving Recess Nov. 25-29**

Session Thirteen
December 1st
WOMEN AND WAR
Required Reading:

**Recommended Reading:**


**TRANSNATIONALISM OF CIVIL WAR AND CONTAGION EFFECTS**

**Session Fourteen**  
**December 1st**

**SECESSIONISM AND DIASPORAS**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Session Fifteen**  
**REFUGEES AND REGIONAL INSTABILITY**
December 8th
Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Session 16: WILDCARD
December 15th

- Students select a topic of their choice and assist instructor in building a reading list

FINAL PAPER DUE DATE: TBA