



## Readings

There are no required books for this course. All of the required readings consist of articles taken from scholarly journals including the *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, and *World Politics*.

I expect you to read everything listed on the syllabus for a particular date **before** coming to class. The lectures will not duplicate the readings. Instead, the lectures will draw on the readings for background and examples, presentation of alternative viewpoints, etc. The reading load for this course is neither light nor too heavy. Some of the readings are technical in nature and will take more time than others. Make sure to leave yourself plenty of time to do the readings. Starting the readings the day before class is not an optimal strategy if your goal is to obtain a good grade in this class.

The articles, lecture slides, short assignments, term paper instructions, and supplementary material will be posted on [SmartSite@UCDavis](#).

## Evaluation

Your grade for this course will consist of 3 parts:

1. Exams (50%)

There will be two exams: a mid-term exam during the scheduled class time on May 3rd and a final exam on June 8th from 10:30am-12:30pm. Each exam will count as 25% of your course grade. The midterm will cover all of the material in weeks 1-5 and the final exam will cover all of the material in weeks 6-10. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Note that the exams may cover: 1) material from the required readings, even if we do not discuss it in class, 2) material discussed in class, even if it is not covered in the assigned readings.

NOTE: Make-up exams will be given only in very extreme circumstances. Make any travel plans accordingly. Students needing to take a make-up exam must receive my approval at least two weeks before the exam date. However, be advised that for all exam retakes, in addition to receiving a different version of the multiple choice/short-answer exam you would have received in class, you may also be required to complete closed-book essay questions and a closed-book oral examination that will count toward your make-up grade. A missed exam is assigned a grade of 0. If you miss an exam due to an illness or death in the family, I will require written verification. Otherwise, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. Basically, without making arrangements for your absence two weeks in advance, you will be allowed to take a make-up exam only in the case of a sudden death in the family, a hospitalization, etc. and only if you provide documentation that verifies the circumstances that made it impossible for you to take the exam as scheduled.

2. Term Paper (35%)

You are required to complete a term paper that will count for 35% of the course grade. The term paper is due on June 2nd. You will select the topic of your term paper from a list of civil war research topics that we will not cover explicitly in class (e.g., natural resources and civil wars). Once you have selected your topic, I will give you three

scholarly articles associated with that topic. Using these articles, you will be required to write a paper that: 1) summarizes the main arguments and hypotheses of each article, 2) compares the articles' research designs, 3) discusses whether the hypotheses in each article receive empirical support, and 4) describes the data used in one of the articles. Note: You will not need to do any extra reading aside from the articles I give you for your topic. We will discuss additional details about the term paper in class. If you submit a draft of your term paper by May 19th, we will be able to provide feedback on your paper in enough time for you to make revisions before submitting the final version on June 2nd. If you submit an outline of your term paper by April 26th, we will be able to provide feedback on your outline in enough time for you to make changes before submitting a draft of your term paper on May 19th.

### 3. Short Assignments (15%)

There will be 3 short assignments in this course. Each of these assignments will count as 5% of the course grade. All assignments must be typed, double spaced, and no smaller than Times New Roman 12pt. font, unless otherwise directed. Please include your name and student number on the assignment.

Assignments (including the Term Paper) are due at **the beginning** of the class period on the date they are due. For typed assignments, you must upload your assignment to the SmartSite web page for this course and bring a hard copy to class with you on the day it is due. If you know you are going to miss class when an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to upload your electronic document and to get the hard copy of your assignment to a TA (handed to them in person, put in their mailbox, or put in the Department of Political Science drop box) before class time.

Assignments will be marked down one half letter grade for each 24 hour period in which they are late, starting at the beginning of class on the day on which they are due, whether or not you attend class and including weekends, holidays, school breaks, etc. For example, an assignment due at 9:00am on Tuesday but turned in anytime after 9:00am Tuesday and before 9:00am on Wednesday will be marked down one half letter grade. Those assignments turned in between Wednesday at 9:00am and Thursday at 9:00am will be marked down one letter grade. I will only make an exception to this policy if: 1) you contact me in writing at least 2 weeks in advance to discuss a conflict, or 2) you provide documentation of a severe illness or family emergency that prevented you from completing the assignment on time. Additionally, no matter how many days have passed, assignments will not be accepted for any amount of credit once the graded assignments are returned.

## Grades

The TAs alone will be responsible for grading the exams, term paper, and short assignments, and their grading decisions are final. I will stay in close contact with the TAs throughout the quarter, and they will consult me on any issues that arise. I will not override their grading decisions.

You may appeal a grade by submitting a written request in two forms, both electronically and hard-copy. Appeals are due within one week of receiving the grade in question. Your written appeal should explain, in logical and concise terms, why you believe you should have

received a different grade. The TAs will take all grade appeals seriously, but be warned that once you appeal a grade, a re-grade may occur in either direction. If this reevaluation reveals that you deserved a higher grade than you received, your grade will be changed. But if this process reveals that you deserved a lower grade than you received, your grade will also be changed (down). If your original grade is deemed correct, your grade will remain the same.

### **Extra Credit**

You will have an opportunity to obtain extra credit in this course. You can obtain extra credit by participating in a Political Science Research Study. If you participate in a research study then 2% will be added to your final grade in the course. This means that after accounting for your grades on the assignments, exams, and term paper, you can receive up to an additional 2% added to your final grade. This would mean that instead of having 88% as your final grade for the course you would have 90%, which is the difference between a B+ and an A-. More details will be announced in class.

I strongly encourage you to participate. Not only is it a good opportunity to receive exposure to how political scientists carry out their research but you will also have 2% added to your final grade.

### **Disabilities**

UC Davis encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. I am strongly committed to the same policy. If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you need to contact the Student Disability Center at 530-752-3184 as soon as possible to identify and document your specific needs. Additionally, it is your responsibility to contact me privately immediately at the beginning of the quarter so we can discuss how to accommodate your needs. Do not wait until just before an assignment deadline or an exam to inform me of a learning disability; any accommodations for disabilities must be arranged well in advance.

### **Academic Dishonesty<sup>1</sup>**

UC Davis and the Department of Political Science take violations of academic dishonesty seriously, as do I. Observing basic honesty in one's work, words, ideas, and actions is a principle to which all members of the community are required to subscribe. In cases of a violation of academic integrity it is the policy of the Department of Political Science to impose appropriate penalties that are consistent with University guidelines. Academic integrity cases will be sent to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless I clearly state otherwise. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly cited. See the following link for tips on how to avoid plagiarism:

<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>.

In general, every time you use another person's idea, you must cite the person at the end

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<sup>1</sup>Much of the text in this section has been directly obtained from the sections of the Princeton University website on Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities: <http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/rrr>.

of the sentence in which you use the idea. Every time you use a specific phrase, even if the phrase is only two words long (e.g., the fourth branch of government or streams of policymaking), you must put the phrase in quotation marks and cite the original author at the end of the sentence in which you use the phrase. Citations should be based on the Chicago Manual of Style. See the following link for citation guidelines: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>.

In an examination setting, unless I give explicit prior instructions to the contrary, whether the examination is in-class or take-home, violations of academic integrity shall consist of any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids, or from any person or papers or electronic devices (including the internet!), or of any attempt to give assistance, whether or not the one doing so has completed his or her own work. Other violations include, but are not limited to, any attempt to gain an unfair advantage in regard to an examination, such as tampering with a graded exam or claiming another's work to be one's own. Violations shall also consist of obtaining or attempting to obtain previous examinations, term papers, or assignments, copies of the examination papers or the questions to appear thereon, or to obtain any illegal knowledge of these questions.

Perhaps most importantly, lying to or purposely misleading me or the TAs shall also constitute a serious violation of academic integrity.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic
March 29 (T)	<b>Course Introduction</b>
March 31 (R)	<b>Studying Civil War Scientifically: Statistical Methods</b>  Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. "What Is Civil War?" <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 48(6): 814-858.
April 5 (T)	<b>Causes of Civil Wars</b>  Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97(1): 75-90.
April 7 (R)	No Class: Professor Joyce out of town
April 12 (T)	<b>Causes of Civil Wars (continued)</b>  Collier, Paul, Anke Hoeffler, and Dominic Rohner. 2009. "Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War." <i>Oxford Economic Papers</i> 61(1): 1-27.
April 14 (R)	<b>Ethnicity and Civil Wars</b>  Sambanis, Nicholas. 2001. "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?" <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 45(3): 259-282.  <b>Assignment #1 Due</b>
April 19 (T)	<b>Ethnicity and Civil Wars (continued)</b>  Cederman, Lars-Erik and Luc Girardin. 2007. "Beyond Fractionalization: Mapping Ethnicity onto Nationalist Insurgencies." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 101(1): 173-185.  Fearon, James D., Kimuli Kasara, and David D. Laitin. 2007. "Ethnic Minority Rule and Civil War Onset." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 101(1): 187-193.
April 21 (R)	<b>Ethnicity and Civil Wars (continued)</b>  Cederman, Lars-Erik, Luc Girardin, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2009. "Ethnonationalist Triads: Assessing the Influence of Kin Groups on Civil Wars." <i>World Politics</i> 61(3): 403-437.

April 26 (T) **Ethnicity and Civil Wars (continued)**

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. 2010.  
“Why Do Ethnic Groups Rebel?” *World Politics* 62(1): 87-119.

**Term Paper Outline Due (optional)**

April 28 (R) **Ethnicity and Civil Wars (continued)**

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Nils B. Weidmann, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2011.  
“Horizontal Inequalities and Ethnonationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison.”  
*American Political Science Review* 105(3): 478-495.

May 3 (T) **MID-TERM EXAM**

May 5 (R) **Studying Civil War Scientifically: Game Theory**

May 10 (T) **Studying Civil War Scientifically: Game Theory (continued)**

May 12 (R) **Civil War Duration**

Fearon, James D. 2004. “Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much  
Longer Than Others?” *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 275-301.

May 17 (T) **Civil War Duration (continued)**

Cunningham, David E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Idean  
Salehyan. 2009. “It Takes Two: A Dyadic Analysis of Civil War  
Duration and Outcome.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53(4): 570-597.

**Assignment #2 Due**

May 19 (R) **Studying Civil War Scientifically: Advanced Game Theory**

Metternich, Nils W. 2011. “Expecting Elections: Interventions, Ethnic Support,  
and the Duration of Civil Wars.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 55(6): 909-937.

**Draft of Term Paper Due (optional)**

May 24 (T) **Interventions into Civil Wars**

Findley, Michael G. and Tze Kwang Teo. 2006. “Rethinking  
Third-Party Interventions into Civil Wars: An Actor-Centric Approach.”  
*Journal of Politics* 68(4): 828-837.

May 26 (R)     **Interventions into Civil Wars (continued)**

Balch-Lindsay, Dylan, Andrew J. Enterline, and Kyle A. Joyce. 2008. "Third-Party Intervention and the Civil War Process." *Journal of Peace Research* 45(3): 345-363.

May 31 (T)     **Studying Civil War Scientifically: Computational Modeling**

Epstein, Joshua M. 2002. "Modeling Civil Violence: An Agent-Based Computational Approach." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 99(90003): 7243-7250.

**Assignment #3 Due**

June 2 (R)     **Studying Civil War Scientifically: Computational Modeling (continued)**

Weidmann, Nils B. and Idean Salehyan. 2013. "Violence and Ethnic Segregation: A Computational Model Applied to Bagdad." *International Studies Quarterly* 57(1): 52-64.

**Term Paper Due**

June 8 (W)     **FINAL EXAM: 10:30AM-12:30PM**

# Contract

By signing below, I, \_\_\_\_\_, student ID# \_\_\_\_\_, affirm that I  
PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME PRINT STUDENT ID#

have read and understood the syllabus that precedes this contract. In particular, I understand the following key facts (initial by each):

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that if I have taken only POL 3 or POL 51 (or the equivalent courses) but not  
INITIALS both, I am likely to find this course to be more challenging than if I had taken both POL 3 and POL 51.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I turn in an assignment after the start of class on the assigned due date, my personal grade  
INITIALS for that assignment will be penalized at the rate of one half letter grade for each 24 hours after the deadline, including weekends, holidays, school breaks, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I miss the midterm exam or the final exam, I will not be able to retake it unless A) I make  
INITIALS mutually-suitable arrangements with the TA at least two weeks in advance, or B) I miss the exam due to extreme circumstances (such as a hospitalization or a death in the family) that I document to the instructor's personal satisfaction.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I need any accommodations for a disability (physical, learning, or otherwise) that may  
INITIALS impact my performance in this class, it is my responsibility, first, to contact the Student Disability Center at 530-752-3184 at the beginning of the course to identify and document my needs and, second, to communicate my documented needs to the instructor and the TA as early as possible in the quarter and well in advance of any exam or assignment deadlines.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will have committed a violation of academic integrity and an incident report detailing my  
INITIALS violation will be sent to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs if any of the following are true:

- I cheat on an exam in any way or assist someone else in cheating
- I intentionally mislead the instructor, a TA, or another college administrator
- I include another author's ideas in my writing without properly citing that author's work, even if a direct quotation is not used
- I include another author's coined word or set of multiple words in my writing without properly citing that author's work

Signed, \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
SIGNATURE DATE