This class will examine current theories and empirical analyses of civil war and political violence. Different theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of civil war will be addressed. Students will be required to develop a general understanding of the literature and to focus in depth on one particular topic as they develop an independent research project.

**Readings:**
The following books are required for purchase. All are available at the university bookstore.


All other readings are accessible through JSTOR and/or the UNT libraries. Searching in scholar.google.com from campus internet servers will give you a variety of access options.

Some readings are not available online; these will be marked with an asterisks (*). Such readings will be placed in a bin in the graduate lounge. You are responsible for making copies and ensuring the text makes it back to the bin in a timely manner so other students can access it.

**Requirements:**
A. Participation - 20%. Attendance is required at all class sessions. In addition, you are expected to participate in class discussions. Speaking up frequently is not as important as contributing meaningful arguments, and well-reasoned critiques.

B. Discussion papers & presentations– 30%. You are required to write two short papers (approx 1,500-2,000 words) on the weekly reading assignments. During the first class meeting, we will divide the weeks among students. These papers are to be an analytical summary and review of the literature. They should be more than a simple synopsis of each article, but should evaluate and critique the literature. These papers should include a list of 3-5 questions which will serve as prompts for class discussions. In preparing these papers, you are encouraged to include pertinent readings not on the list, including recommended readings. You are required to circulate these papers to everyone in the class at least 24 hours before the given class meeting. In addition, you are expected to give a brief presentation (approx 15 minutes) on the literature and pose your discussion questions to the class.
C. Research design – 50%. Each student is required to develop a research project relating to some aspect of civil war and political violence. This paper must include an interesting research question, a review of the relevant literature, a clearly stated and well-argued theory, a set of testable hypotheses, and a plausible strategy for carrying out empirical research. You should approach this as a first-step in constructing a viable research project that could eventually lead to a journal article, thesis, or dissertation. Although you may conduct some preliminary data collection and testing, this will not be required.

This research design project will come due in several cumulative installments:

1) Research question and justification. What is the question you propose to answer? Why is this an interesting and important question? DUE: September 25.

2) Literature review. Summarize and critique the existing literature on your topic. What remains to be done and how does your project fit in with and expand upon existing work? DUE: November 6.

3) Final research design. In addition to 1 & 2, develop a new and novel theory, a set of testable hypotheses derived from that theory, and a plan for conducting the research. Include a discussion of the types of evidence used, operationalization of variables, strategies for data collection, etc. DUE: December 11.

Failure to turn in any section by the required date will result in a 3% penalty per day late on the final grade.

*All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, no more than one inch margins. Use in-text parenthetical citations [example: (Mason 1991)] and a complete bibliography at the end.

CLASS SCHEDULE


2. September 4. Psychological approaches

   *Recommended:*


**Recommended:**

**4. September 18. Political economy II: natural resources.**

**Recommended:**

**5. September 25. Nationalism and ethnic conflict I: group comparisons.**

**Recommended:**

**6. October 2. Nationalism and ethnic conflict II: territory and state-building.**

**Recommended:**

**7. October 9. Nationalism and ethnic conflict III: rationalist approaches.**

**Recommended:**
8. October 16. Political institutions I: state weakness

Recommended:

9. October 23. Political institutions II: institutional design
5. Chapter by Aleman and Treisman (ch 8) in, Roeder and Rothchild, *Sustainable Peace*.

Recommended

10. October 30. The organization of rebellion
1. Lichbach, Mark I. *The Rebel’s Dilemma*. (Parts 1&2. focus on 3-82; 111-134; 167-176; 210-244. Skim the rest of parts 1&2).

Recommended:


Recommended:


Recommended:

13. NO CLASS ON THANKSGIVING – MAKE PROGRESS ON PAPER
14. **November 27. External intervention and peacekeeping.**


**Recommended:**

15. **December 4. Duration, resolution, and sustainable peace.**


**Recommended**
- Mukherjee, Bumba. 2006. Why Political Power-Sharing Institutions Lead to Peaceful Resolution of Some Civil Wars but not Others? *International Studies Quarterly* 50:479-

**16. December 11. Student papers due.**