

IR/PSC 276/276W: The Politics of Insurgency

Prof. Bethany Lacina
Thursdays, 2-4:40pm
LeChase 160

This seminar deals with the logic of asymmetric conflicts between states and non-state actors. We will examine theories of how non-state actors can win conflicts against governments and what these theories imply about the decision to rebel. The class then turns to problems of recruitment, civilian control, and tactics faced by rebel groups.

Instructor

Professor Lacina
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Office: Harkness 322
Office hours: Fridays 11-1 or by appointment

Course Requirements

The requirements for the W sections and non-W sections of this course are the same. 60% of the grade is based on attendance and participation in class. The remaining 40% of the grade will be based on a final project requiring an original research paper.

Course Materials

The following books have been ordered through the campus bookstore (look for PSC 276). Other readings will be available through Blackboard.

Autesserre, A. (2010) *The Trouble with the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding*. Cambridge University Press.

Berman, E. (2009) *Radical, Religious, and Violent: The New Economics of Terrorism*. MIT Press.

Metelit, C. (2009) *Inside Insurgency*. NYU Press.

Rable, G.C. (2007) *But There Was No Peace: The Role of Violence in the Politics of Reconstruction*. University of Georgia Press.

Academic honesty

Academic honesty: Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. As freshmen, students read and sign an academic honesty policy statement to indicate that they understand the general principles upon which our work is based. The College Board on Academic Honesty website gives further information on our policies and procedures: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

In this course the following additional requirements are in effect: You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. In order to make appropriate help available for your essays, I encourage you to consult with me and with the College Writing Center. The term research paper will require citations and "Works Cited" following an assigned format. Cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Honesty Board.

Attendance

This is a seminar course. Student preparation and participation is vital to the success of the source. Unexcused absences or extreme tardiness will result in no credit for that session's attendance and participation grade.

If you need to miss a class because of a religious holiday, school function, funeral, or other extraordinary circumstances please email me in advance of class. If you are too ill to attend class, please provide me with a note from the Student Health Center stating that your illness prevented you from attending class; this note must be provided within 72 hours of the missed class. Students who follow the above procedure to obtain an excused absence may make-up any in-class assignments as take home assignments, which will be due by 5 pm on the Wednesday immediately following the class that the student has missed.

A student with two excused absences who needs to miss another class should contact me directly to discuss their situation.

Late work

Barring extraordinary circumstances, late work will be marked down a third of a grade (e.g., A to A-) for each 24 hour period after it is due. Thus, if an assignment is turned in any time during the first 24 hours after it is due, it is penalized a third of a grade. Any assignment not turned in within a week of the due date will automatically receive a zero.

When submitting work by email, include the assignment as an attachment AND paste the text of your work into the body of the email. If you do not include the text of the assignment in the body of your email and your attachment is missing, corrupted, or unreadable, your work will be considered late.

Course evaluations and extra credit

I will award everyone in the class extra credit (an additional 2% added to the final score) if there is 100% participation in the on-line course evaluations.

Class schedule

September 1: Introns.

October 6: Recruitment: A case study from Sierra Leone

Attendance and participation: 6% of final grade

Reading for the week (61 pages):

Hoffman, D. (2007) "The Meaning of a Militia: Understanding the Civil Defence Forces of Sierra Leone." *African Affairs*. (25 pages)

Humphreys, M. and J. Weinstein. (2004) "What the Fighters Say: A Survey of Ex-Combatants in Sierra Leone, June-August 2003." Columbia University and UNAMSIL. Pp. 2-17. (16 pages)

Richards, P. and J. Vincent. (2008) "Sierra Leone: Marginalization of the RUF." In *From Soldiers to Politicians*, ed. J. de Zeeuw. Lynne Rienner. (20 pages)

October 13: Internal control

Attendance and participation: 6% of final grade

Reading for the week (121 pages):

Berman, E. *Radical, Religious, and Violent*. Pp. 121-155. (35 pages)

Cohen, D. 2013. "Explaining Rape during Civil War: Cross-National Evidence (1980–2009)." *American Political Science Review*. (17 pages)

Staniland, P. 2012. "Organizing Insurgency: Networks, Resources, and Rebellion in South Asia." *International Security*. (36 pages)

Weinstein, J. *Inside Rebellion*. Chapter 4. (33 pages)

Week of October 20: Individual meetings with instructor. No class meeting.

One page draft of paper topic (due at meeting with instructor): 5% of final grade.

October 27: Factionalism

Attendance and participation: 6% of final grade

Reading for the week (152 pages):

Driscoll, J. (2015) *Warlords and Coalition Politics in Post-Soviet States*.

November 10: Maintaining civilian support

Final paper (30% of course grade)

The final paper for the course is due at the start of class on December 8. It may be submitted by email before class or in hardcopy at the final class meeting. This paper should be 20-25 pages in length not including the bibliography and using 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double-spacing, and in-text ("author-date") citations. The grading rubric for the paper will be distributed in class.

Resources for finding non-state armed groups to compare in the final paper:

Van Inwegen, P. (2011) *Understanding Revolution*. Lynne Rienner. Appendix. (Available on Blackboard)

Uppsala Conflict Data Project (<http://ucdp.uu.se>)

Global Terrorism Database (<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>)