Political Science 360

STRATEGIC STUDIES

Winter Term, 2004-05
M, W, F: 11:00 - 12:00
Buchanan A 205

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Political Science 360: Security Studies

This course will be devoted to consideration of “internal conflict”, (variously described by the terms intra-state conflict, regional conflict, civil war, ethnic conflict, etc.), by far the most prevalent mode of deadly violence in today’s world. We will examine the dilemmas confronting individuals and communal groups seeking to ensure and advance their security, often defined in religious or ethnic terms and often at variance with the security interests of states and their regimes. The problems of weak and failing states will be examined, especially as such contexts often give rise to the most virulent and intractable conflicts. The challenges of achieving peaceful settlements to communal conflicts either by the parties directly engaged or through the intervention of others will be explored. Four case studies--Rwanda, Bosnia, Sierra Leone, and the Sudan--will receive specific attention.

Assignments and Evaluation

Course grades will be determined on the basis of the following assignments.

a. Mid-term examination (Feb. 11) 20.0
b. Term paper (March 30) 40.0
c. Final Examination 40.0

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100 points

Students are responsible for material covered in lectures and class discussions as well as in the assigned readings listed below. Late papers will be penalized, at the rate of one gradation per class day late, (e.g. If a paper due on Monday was handed in on Friday of that same week and was an A paper, it would be docked 2 gradations, A- and B+, and would be recorded as a B.) Make-up examinations will be given only if a medical excuse is provided.

Note: Political Science Department policies: Students should familiarize themselves with the departmental policy on plagiarism. All written work submitted by students must be original in conception, organization, and phrasing. Sources must be appropriately acknowledged, including Internet/www materials. Work submitted in this course for evaluation must not be, or have been, submitted in other courses. Students should also be aware that there are available procedures through which they can take up complaints regarding the course, the instructor, and/or their grades received. The initial contact point for such matters is the Department Head or the Department’s Undergraduate Coordinator.
Term Paper

The term paper assignment for this course involves each student exploring some aspect of a contemporary intrastate conflict, for example, the role of paramilitaries in the Bosnian conflict, the role of natural resource riches in fueling a particular conflict, or the dilemmas of peacebuilding in a particular ethnically divided society. Topics will be determined in consultation with the instructor. The paper assignment will be completed in two phases: first, a required two-page outline plus preliminary bibliography is to be submitted (February 25) accounting for 5%; second, the paper itself (15 pages of text plus bibliography) is to be submitted (March 30). Further information concerning the paper assignment will be distributed in class.

Note: The Department of Political Science now requires that instructors utilize the services of the “TurnItIn.com” internet service provider when submitting papers. Details of the policy and procedures involves will be given when posted on the Department website, www.politics.ubc.ca and/or the course website. For the relevant University policy statement, see http://www.vpacademic.ubc.ca/Learning/Turnitin_info.htm

Course Readings

A packet containing all the required readings listed on the syllabus will be available for purchase in the University Bookstore.

Resources on the Internet

First of all, you should be familiar with and utilize the various resources of the UBC library, including the on-line journal indexes and full-text resources.

In addition, there are many sites on the internet that provide useful, up to date materials concerning contemporary international relations and conflict. Familiarize yourself with the use of the internet as a research tool and with some of the key sites that could serve as starting points for specific searches. For a good overall list of international relations related news and research websites, see the UBC Political Science Librarian’s listing of research links: www.library.ubc.ca/poli

The following sites are worth knowing about and exploring:

- Humanitarian Relief Network: http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf
- International Relations and Security Network: http://www.isn.ethz.ch/
- Forum on Early Warning and Early Response: http://www.carleton.ca/cifp/
- International Peace Academy: http://www.ipacademy.org/
- INCORE: http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/
- US Institute for Peace: http://www.usip.org/

Note: A COPY OF THE COURSE SYLLABUS CONTAINING ACTIVE INTERNET LINKS FOR THE ABOVE SITES, PLUS MORE THROUGHOUT THE SYLLABUS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT www.politics.ubc.ca/job/360
LIST OF READINGS AND TOPICS

INTRODUCTION (JAN. 5)

A. SECURITY AND CONFLICT (JAN 7-17)

A 1. The nature of “security”
   #1 Tow, William T. and Trood, Russell (2000), “Linkages between traditional
   security and human security”, in William T. Tow, Ramesh Thakur and In-Taek Hyn, eds.,
   #2 Annan, Kofi. (1999), "Two Concepts of Sovereignty," from

A 2. The record
   #3 Gurr, Ted Robert; Marshall, Monty; and Khosla, Deepa (2003) *Peace and
   Conflict: A Global Survey ….*, excerpts. Also available at
   [http://www.cidcem.umd.edu/inscr/pc03print.pdf](http://www.cidcem.umd.edu/inscr/pc03print.pdf)

A 3. The nature of war
   Terrorism,” *Current History*, (December), pp. 419-424.
   #7 Kaldor, Mary, (1999), “The Globalized War Economy,” *New and Old Wars:
   #8 Filkins, Dexter, (2004), “In Falluja, Young Marines Saw the Savagery of an

B. SUSTAINING THE STATE: FAILURES OF LEGITIMACY, GOVERNANCE, AND CAPABILITY
   (JAN 19 - 26)

B.1. Assessing the Risks of Conflict: “Opportunities and Motivations”

B 2. Weak, Strong, and Failed States

B 3. The Struggles of Nationalism: Religious vs Secular
   #11 Juergensmeyer, Mark (1993), *The New Cold War: Religious Nationalism
   Confronts the Secular State*, Berkeley: University of California Press,
   Chapters 2 and 6.
C. COMMUNAL CONFLICT (JAN 28 – FEB 9)

C 1. Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Ethnic Conflict: Contending Explanations

C 2. Ethnic Cleansing

C 3. The Disintegration of Yugoslavia

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (FEB 11)

D. GENOCIDE (FEB 21 – MAR 2)

D 1. The definition and politics of genocide

D 2. Case Study: Rwanda

E. THE ECONOMICS OF CONFLICT AND RESOURCES (MAR 4 - 11)

E 1. The Economics of Civil Wars, Crime, and Violence
#7 Collier, Paul. et al. (2003) re-read

E 2. Case Study: Sierra Leone
#31 “Gender and Conflict in Sierra Leone,” (1997). Available at www.c-r.org/occe_papers/briefings5.htm
#33 Francis, David J. (2002) “Diamonds and the Civil War in Sierra Leone” the Courier APC-EU no. 187 July/August pp.73-75

F. THE COMPLEXITIES OF CONFLICT: PARTIES AND VICTIMS (MAR 14 – 23)

F 1. Case Study: Sudan

F 2. Refugees, IDPs, and Diaspora Populations
G. DILEMMAS OF INTERVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING (MAR 30 – APR 6)


H. CONCLUSION (APR 8)