

Stv 4283B Selected Topics in Peace and Conflict Studies.

Lecture Plan Spring 2008 (may be subject to minor changes)

1. Armed Insurgencies and Civil Wars (Gyda M. Sindre 21.04)

Armed insurgency movements occupy center stage in civil wars. What explains the persistence of such movements? Is it useful to distinguish between “new” and “old” wars? Were the insurgency movements of the 1970s guided by different principles and motivations than those of today? The lecture will discuss the political motivations involved in contemporary civil wars, using examples from Asia and Africa. It will deal specifically with the issues of regional dimensions, governance, the role of the state, and historical trends when trying to make sense of armed insurgencies.

Readings: Richards (2006), Bøås and Dunn (2007), Englebert (2007), Ginty (2006-ch 3) Stokke (2006)

Recommended readings: Richards (2006), Kaldor (1999), Allen (1998), Keen (2000), Bøås and Dunn (2007), Nessen (2006)

2. Inequality and Civil Wars: Economic and Ethnic Dimensions (Gudrun Østby 23.04)

Does inequality breed civil war? In the quantitative literature of civil war, studies of the inequality-conflict nexus conclude that economic inequality (between individuals) does not increase the risk of civil armed conflict. On the other hand, case studies of particular countries demonstrate that inequality can indeed be a conflict-provoking factor when the inequality in question coincides with cultural cleavages in society. This lecture will try to bring these two literatures together and provide some general empirical evidence on the link between inter-group inequality and conflict.

Readings: Collier and Hoeffler (2004), Fearon and Laitin (2003), Gurr (2000), Kanbur (2007), Østby (2008), Stewart (2002)

Recommended readings: Hegre et.al (2003), Kanbur and Venables (2005), Lichbach (1989), Murshed and Gates (2005), Tadjoeeddin (2003)

3. Environmental Factors and Violent Conflict (Marit Brochmann 24.04)

Do environmental factors seriously threaten global security? The lecture will introduce the main strands within the theoretical debate on environmental security and conflict and illustrate the debate through presentation of some competing empirical findings.

Gleditsch (2001), Gleditsch et.al. (2006), Homer-Dixon (1994), Nordås and Gleditsch (2007), Yoffe (2003) (99p)

4. Transnational Dimensions of Civil War (Martin A. Nome 25.04)

Civil war, by definition a territorially bounded phenomenon, is having its considerable transnational dimension explored by a growing body of research. Indeed, the importance of transnationalism is a key finding in empirical work on civil war, be it flows of refugees or material goods across state boundaries, cross-border recruitment and mobilization patterns, foreign state or non-state support for rebel groups, or transnational identities for which agency is real or ascribed. As it stands, empirical work on the transnational aspects of civil war could benefit from looking to the richly theorized research on transnational politics in international relations (IR) theory and sociology. The learning should be mutual. The IR literature on transnationalism, biased as it is towards the benevolent side of world politics, would do well to adjust for cross-border non-state activities with more malevolent consequences.

This lecture thus brings together empirical research on transnational aspects of civil war and theoretical work that addresses insights and limitations in the literature on transnationalism, arguing it is high time these two literatures began a dialogue.

Readings: Orenstein and Schmitz (2006), Saideman (2001), Selehyan and Gleditsch (2006)

5. Understanding Mass violence and Civil War: Intimacy and Parochialism (Martin A. Neme and Ellen Stensrud 05.05)

How can we understand popular participation in mass violence and civil war? Does the killing of fellow citizens reflect a conflict's political dimensions? Is violence orchestrated from above, or does violence take on its own dynamics? What are the motives of individual perpetrators, and the importance of political leadership? This lecture will combine insights from research on genocide and civil war in order to focus on the participation of ordinary people in violence. The lecture draws on examples from Rwanda, Cambodia, as well as a range of civil wars.

Readings: Browning (1998), Hinton (1998), Kalyvas (2003), Kalyvas (2006), Mironko (2006)

6. Ethics in War (Kristian Helland-Hansen 06.05)

The lecture is an introduction to the Just War tradition. Basic principles of "Ius ad bellum" and "ius in bello" are explained and certain dilemmas are discussed with reference to historical examples and legal documents.

Readings: Charney (1999), Fixdal & Smith (1998), ICJ (2004), Semb (2003), Waltzer (2006a), Wedgewood (1999)

Recommended readings: Helgesen (1999), ICRC (1949), Nablusi (2005), Overrein (2007), Roberts (1992), Second Hague Peace Conference (1907), Syse (2003), UN (1945), Waltzer (2006b)

7. Ending Civil Wars: Comparing Peace Processes (Gyda M. Sindre 07.05)

Why do some peace processes fail while others succeed? Under what conditions can one reach peaceful settlements to civil wars? and what kind of peace is possible? Rather than peace, many post-war / post-peace accord societies experience a 'no war- no peace' situation, as the implementation of peace becomes a technocratic exercise of counting weapons and organizing elections on the one hand, and handing out development aid on the other, while the more affective issues of reconciliation and restoration remain unaddressed. The lecture explores the merits and flaws in the liberal peace approach to conflict resolution by drawing on examples from several peace processes.

Readings: Ginty (2006 ch 2, 5), Stokke and Shanmugaratnam (2004)

Recommended readings: Goodhand (2005), Bojicic-Dzelilovic (2003), Uyangoda (2007), Stedman (2002), Paris (2004)

8. Transitional justice: Can trials after mass atrocities contribute to democracy and reconciliation? (Ellen Stensrud) (08.05)

This lecture first introduces the broad research field transitional justice, with an emphasis on criminal trials. Second, the lecture raises the question of the link between international justice mechanisms and local reconciliation and democratization. Can international tribunals contribute to democracy and peace in conflict-ridden societies? The benefits of placing tribunals closer to the affected populations are discussed through the examples of Sierra Leone and Cambodia.

Readings: Robertson (2005), Sikkink (2007), Fletcher (2002), Sieff (2002)

Recommended readings: Orentlicher (2007), Vinjamuri (2004), Linton (2001), Stover (2004), Snyder (2003/4), Osiel (2000)

Students are encouraged to consult the following websites: www.ictj.org (leading advocacy NGO and analysis-institute), www.sc-sl.org (Special Court for Sierra Leone), www.eccc.gov.kh (Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia), <http://www.unakrt-online.org/> (United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials), www.icty.org (International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia) www.ictj.org, (International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda), www.un.org/icc (International Criminal Court)

Seminars: Students will be divided into seminar groups where they will present their paper outlines for group discussion. Both seminars are compulsory and will take place in the weeks 20 and 21. The deadline for the final paper is June 2nd.

