

POL 329S: EXPERIENCES OF CONFLICT

Winter 2017, Thursdays 12-2, SS 2106

Instructor: Professor Nancy Bertoldi

Office: Sidney Smith Hall, Room 3123

Phone: 416-946-0181, Email: nancy.bertoldi@chass.utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Fridays 2-3 (appointments recommended)

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

The course reviews selected novels that deal with personal and collective experiences of conflict. It focuses on representations of how conflict is experienced. It gives students a practical understanding of the human dimension of selected major conflicts and explores possibilities for personal and social resistance to injustice and violence. Special attention is paid to questions of identity formation and moral choice in contexts of war and nationalism.

READINGS

The following books will be used in the course:

1. Chimamanda Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, (Vintage Canada, 2007).
2. Joseph Boyden, *Three Day Road*, (Penguin, 2006)
3. Karen Connelly, *The Lizard Cage*, (Random House Canada, 2005).
4. Steven Galloway, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, (Knopf Canada, 2008).
5. Khushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan*, (Grove Press, 1961) or (Penguin, 2007).

The books are available for short-term loan at Robarts Library. They are also available for purchase at the University of Toronto Bookstore, located at 214 College Street.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course will meet for two hours of lecture per week. One additional hour of tutorial in the week before the student presentation is scheduled will also be required.

Performance in the course will be evaluated on the basis of the following components:

Reflection (500 words)	10%
Paper (1500 words)	30%
Presentation (300 words per student for handout)	20%
Term test	25%
Class attendance	15%

The reflection (10% of the final grade) will involve the analysis of a selected passage from an assigned novel that engages with course themes from an assigned week. Length: 500 words.

The paper (30% of the final grade) will involve the preparation of an analytical book review on an assigned novel that engages with course themes from an assigned week. Length: 1500 words.

The presentation (20% of the final grade) will involve the preparation of a collaborative group presentation on the novel students have written their book reviews on, followed by a brief question and answer period and an opportunity to lead class discussion. Students are required to attend a **mandatory tutorial** in the week before their presentations to have their presentation plans approved. **Groups who do not attend the mandatory tutorial will not be allowed to present.** As part of their presentation, groups will prepare a collaborative handout that covers the central themes of their presentation and that indicates discussion questions. Students will be expected to submit a hard copy of their handout to the instructor and must also post it on blackboard before the beginning of class on the date their presentation is scheduled. Students who choose to use audio-visual materials during their presentations will have to submit them to the instructor 2 days in advance. Length of handout: 300 words per student.

Students should include word counts on all written assignments. Assignments that are more than 10% longer or shorter will be penalized.

The term test (25% of the final grade) will be closed-book and will take place during class time on week 12. Questions on the test will ask students to discuss novels they have not written a paper or reflection on.

Class attendance (15% of the final grade) will be graded on the basis of regular attendance. Students are responsible for making sure to sign the attendance sheet in class every week; otherwise they will not get attendance credit for that week. Students should be aware that missed weeks can make a significant difference to their final marks at the end of the year.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 12	Galloway reflections due
January 18	Last day to add course
January 19	Assignment of books for papers
February 2	Singh reflections due
February 9	Connelly papers due and mandatory tutorial for Connelly presenters
February 16	Connelly presentations
March 2	Adichie papers due and mandatory tutorial for Adichie presenters
March 9	Adichie presentations
March 13	Last day to drop course without academic penalty
March 16	Boyden papers due and mandatory tutorial for Boyden presenters
March 23	Boyden presentations
March 30	Term test
April 5	Last day to request late withdrawal at college registrar
April 28	Last day to file a petition regarding term work

COURSE POLICIES

Extensions and make-ups: No extensions or make-ups will be granted on written assignments, presentations and tests, unless students have acceptable reasons that are documented, e.g. illness supported by an official U of T medical certificate. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of missed term work. Assignments or tests from other courses scheduled for the same day or work commitments do not constitute acceptable reasons, so plan in advance accordingly.

Late penalties: Written assignments are to be handed in *at the beginning of class* on the date that they are due. Late assignments will be penalized. There is no allowance for computer problems, printer problems, late buses, late trains, and so on. The late submission penalty is 2% per each late day, *weekends included*. The cut-off time for the determination of the number of late days is **5 pm**. (Please note the following exception: To be fair to students who submit their assignments on time, **assignments received after class begins on the date they are due will be considered 1 day late.**)

Submission of late assignments: Late written assignments must be submitted at the reception of the Political Science Department on the 3rd floor of Sidney Smith Hall. All late work must be date-stamped by departmental staff at the time of submission and must clearly note the course code and name of the instructor and TA. Make sure to submit your work during business hours (9 am to 5 pm) or no one will be there to receive it. Assignments submitted by fax or email will not be accepted, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Plagiarism: All sources used in written assignments must be properly cited. Failure to acknowledge sources constitutes plagiarism—a serious academic offense. For more information, students can review “How Not to Plagiarize” and other advice on sources at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.

Turnitin: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Double-sided printing: To help conserve paper, please print all written assignments double-sided if you can. You can learn how at: printdoublesided.sa.utoronto.ca.

Blackboard and email: Blackboard will be used to manage the course. Students are expected to check their U of T emails and the course blackboard page regularly for posted course materials and announcements.

RESOURCES

Writing skills: Students can visit www.writing.utoronto.ca for advice on all aspects of academic writing. Students can also make use of the college writing centers for individualized consultations on their written assignments. Interested students should book their appointments with the writing centers early, as they fill up fast. Information about the writing centers is available at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. Students can also take advantage of the Library's free “Writing Plus” academic skills workshop series, described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>. International students can find information about the English Language Learning program (ELL), which includes practice opportunities for improving oral communication and reading skills, at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. For more information, please contact the ELL Coordinator at leora.freedman@utoronto.ca.

Accessibility services: Students with special needs are strongly encouraged to register with accessibility services to arrange necessary accommodations for fair access to their courses.

LECTURES

January 5	Week 1	Distribution of Syllabus
January 12	Week 2	Theme: Obedience and Resistance (Galloway reflections due)
January 19	Week 3	Novel: Galloway (Assignment of books for papers)
January 26	Week 4	Theme: Self-Determination (Singh reflections due)
February 2	Week 5	Novel: Singh
February 9	Week 6	Theme: Human Rights (Connelly papers due and mandatory tutorial)
February 16	Week 7	Novel: Connelly (Connelly presentations)
March 2	Week 8	Theme: Civil Wars (Adichie papers due and mandatory tutorial)
March 9	Week 9	Novel: Adichie (Adichie presentations)
March 16	Week 10	Theme: Reconciliation (Boyden papers due and mandatory tutorial)
March 23	Week 11	Novel: Boyden (Boyden presentations)
March 30	Week 12	Term test (Room TBA)

Reminders:

1. There will be no class on February 23 (reading week).
2. All written assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on their due date and must include word counts.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Distribution of Syllabus

- No reading assignment.

Week 2: Obedience and Resistance

- François Rochat and Andre Modiglianni, "[The Ordinary Quality of Resistance: From Milgram's Laboratory to the Village of Le Chambon](#)," *Journal of Social Issues*, 51/3 (1995), pp. 195-210.
- Michael Ignatieff, "The Narcissism of Minor Difference" in Michael Ignatieff, *The Warrior's Honor*, (Viking, 1998), pp. 34-71.

Week 3: Novel: Galloway

- Steven Galloway, [The Cellist of Sarajevo](#), (Knopf Canada, 2008).

Week 4: Self-Determination

- Daniel Philpott, "In Defense of Self-Determination," *Ethics*, 105 2 (Jan 1995), pp. 352-385.
- Allen Buchanan, "Democracy and Secession" in Margaret Moore (ed.), [National Self-Determination and Secession](#), (Oxford University Press, 1998).
- Atul Kohli, "[Can Democracies Accommodate Ethnic Nationalism? Rise and Decline of Self-Determination Movements in India](#)," *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 56/2 (1997), pp. 325-344.

Week 5: Novel: Singh

- Khushwant Singh, [Train to Pakistan](#), (Grove Press, 1961) or (Penguin, 2007).

Week 6: Human Rights

- Charles Beitz, [The Idea of Human Rights](#), (Oxford University Press, 2009), ch. 7.
- Joseph Carens, [The Ethics of Immigration](#), (Oxford University Press, 2013), ch. 10.

Week 7: Novel: Connelly

- Karen Connelly, [*The Lizard Cage*](#), (Random House Canada, 2005).

Week 8: Civil War

- Donald Horowitz, “Group Comparison and the Sources of Conflict” in Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*, (University of California Press, 1985), ch. 4. Available online at: <http://books.google.com/books?id=Q82saX1HVQYC> (pp. 141-184).
- E. Wayne Nafziger, “[The Political Economy of Disintegration in Nigeria](#),” *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 11/4 (1973), pp. 505-536.

Week 9: Novel: Adichie

- Chimamanda Adichie, [*Half of a Yellow Sun*](#), (Vintage Canada, 2007).

Week 10: Reconciliation

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Honoring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, (May 2015), pp. 1-25. (Entire report is recommended)
- Thomas King, *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America*, (Doubleday Canada, 2012), ch. 8.

Week 11: Novel: Boyden

- Joseph Boyden, *Three Day Road*, (Penguin, 2006).

Week 12: Term Test