

POL 329S: EXPERIENCES OF CONFLICT

Winter 2018, Thursday 12-2, SS 1070

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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 reading materials 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. Steven Galloway, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, (Knopf Canada, 2008)
4. Khushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan*, (Grove Press, 1961) or (Penguin, 2007)
5. Selected articles and book chapters available electronically via U of T libraries
6. Blackboard site containing PDF copies of readings that are not available electronically

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

2 papers (30% each)	60%
Term test	25%
Participation	15%

The papers (30% of the final grade each) will involve the preparation of an analytical book review of a novel that engages with relevant course themes from designated weeks. For their first paper, students may choose to write on Galloway or Singh, and they may choose to engage with course themes from the weeks on obedience and resistance or self-determination. For their second paper, students may choose to write on Adichie or Boyden, and they may choose to engage with course themes from the weeks on civil wars or reconciliation. Length: 1000 words each.

The term test (25% of the final grade) will be closed-book and will take place during class time on week 12.

Participation (15% of the final grade) will be graded on the basis of regular attendance and informed participation in class discussions on an ongoing basis. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Students are responsible for making sure to sign the attendance sheet in class every week; otherwise they will not receive attendance credit. 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 17	Last day to add course
February 8	Paper 1 due
March 14	Last day to drop course without academic penalty
March 22	Paper 2 due
March 29	Term test
April 4	Last day to request late withdrawal at college registrar
May 5	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.

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

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.

Registrar's office: Students are encouraged to contact their registrar promptly with any unexpected difficulties they may experience during the course.

LECTURES

January 4	Week 1	Distribution of Syllabus
January 11	Week 2	Theme: Obedience and Resistance
January 18	Week 3	Novel: Galloway
January 25	Week 4	Theme: Self-Determination
February 1	Week 5	Novel: Singh
February 8	Week 6	Theme: Civil Wars (paper 1 due)
February 15	Week 7	Novel: Adichie
February 22	No class	Winter reading week
March 1	Week 8	Experiences of Conflict in Film
March 8	Week 9	Theme: Reconciliation
March 15	Week 10	Novel: Boyden
March 22	Week 11	Theme: Humanizing Conflict (paper 2 due)
March 29	Week 12	Term test (Room TBA)

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Distribution of Syllabus

- No reading assignment.

Week 2: Obedience and Resistance

- François Rochat and Andre Modigliani, "[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: Experiences of Conflict in Film

- Stefan Engert and Alexander Spencer, "International Relations at the Movies: Teaching and Learning about International Politics through Film," *Perspectives*, 17 1 (2009), pp. 83-104.

Week 7: Civil Wars

- 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 8: Novel: Adichie

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

Week 9: 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 10: Novel: Boyden

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

Week 11: Humanizing Conflict

- Gerald O’Brien, “Indigestible Food, Conquering Hordes, and Waste Materials: Metaphors of Immigrants and the Early Immigration Restriction Debate in the United States,” *Metaphor and Symbol*, 18 (2003), pp. 33-47.
- Vitoria Esses, Stelian Medianu, and Andrea Lawson, “Uncertainty, Threat, and the Role of the Media in Promoting the Dehumanization of Immigrants and Refugees,” *Journal of Social Issues*, 69 3 (2013), pp. 518-536.
- Joseph Carens, *The Ethics of Immigration*, (Oxford University Press, 2013), ch. 10.

Week 12: Term Test

