POL 329S: EXPERIENCES OF CONFLICT  
Winter 2019, Thursday 12-2, Room TBA

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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 literary 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:
5. Selected articles and book chapters available electronically via U of T libraries

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)  
- Term test  
- Peer review  
- Participation  

The papers (30% of the final grade for each paper) will involve the preparation of an analytical book review that engages with both a specified novel and an analytical theme from designated weeks. Please see the paper instructions at the end of the syllabus for further details.

The term test (25% of the final grade) will be closed-book and will take place during class time on week 12 in a separate examination room that will be announced.

The peer review (5% of the final grade) will take place in class time in week 6. Students are required to bring a draft of their first paper to class for this assignment.

Participation (10% of the final grade) will be graded mainly on the basis of attendance. Informed participation in class discussions will also be rewarded. 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Last day to add course</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Draft of paper 1 due for peer review</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Paper 1 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Last day to drop course without academic penalty</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Paper 2 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Term test</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Last day to request late withdrawal at college registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Last day to file a petition regarding term work</td>
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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Extensions and make-ups:** No extensions or make-ups will be granted on written assignments 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 than the word count will be penalized by 5%.

**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 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 the cut-off time: **assignments received after class begins on the date they are due will be considered 1 day late** to ensure fairness to students who have submitted their assignments on time at the beginning of class.) Late submissions will not be accepted once marked assignments have been returned to the class.

**Submission of late assignments:** Late 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](http://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.
Quercus and email: Students are expected to check their U of T emails and the course quercus page regularly for posted course materials and announcements.

Appeals: Students who have concerns about the mark they receive are required to submit in writing their reasons for this along with a copy of the marked work no later than 2 weeks after assignments have been returned to the class. All appeals have to be submitted to the teaching assistant first. After the TA responds, if any concerns remain, they should be submitted in writing to the instructor.

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.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Distribution of Syllabus</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Analytical Theme: Obedience-Resistance</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Novel: Galloway</td>
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<td>January 31</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Analytical Theme: Self-Determination</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Novel: Singh</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Peer Review</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
<td>No class</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Analytical Theme: Civil Wars (paper 1 due)</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Novel: Adichie</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Analytical Theme: Reconciliation</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Novel: Boyden</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Analytical Theme: Humanizing Conflict (paper 2 due)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Term test (Room TBA)</td>
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READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Distribution of Syllabus
- No reading assignment.

Week 2: Obedience-Resistance

Week 3: Novel: Galloway
• Steven Galloway, The Cellist of Sarajevo, (Knopf Canada, 2008).

Week 4: Self-Determination
• David Miller, “Secession and the Principle of Nationality” in Margaret Moore (ed.), National Self-Determination and Secession, (Oxford University Press, 1998), ch. 4

Week 5: Novel: Singh
• Khushwant Singh, Train to Pakistan, (Grove Press, 1961) or (Penguin, 2007).

Week 6: Peer Review
• No reading assignment. Draft of paper 1 required for peer review.

Week 7: Civil Wars

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)

Week 10: Novel: Boyden
• Joseph Boyden, Three Day Road, (Penguin, 2006).

Week 11: Humanizing Conflict

Week 12: Term Test
PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare an analytical review that engages with a specified novel and analytical theme from designated weeks. Make sure to answer the question you are asked, to demonstrate your knowledge of both the novel and the analytical theme, and to develop a coherent central thesis that integrates insights from both. Remember to explicitly justify your choices and to explicitly give reasons for the positions you take.

Each paper is worth 30% of your final course grade. Length: 1000 words. Make sure to include a word count.

**Paper 1:** Draft for peer review due February 14. Final copy due February 28.
**Novel:** Galloway OR Singh
**Analytical theme:** Obedience-Resistance OR Self-Determination
**Question:** Individuality is a luxury of peace that cannot be afforded in times of conflict. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

**Paper 2:** Final copy due March 28.
**Novel:** Adichie OR Boyden
**Analytical theme:** Civil Wars OR Reconciliation
**Question:** Morality is a luxury of peace that cannot be afforded in times of conflict. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

**Optional:** For paper 2 only, you have the opportunity to suggest your own question (instead of answering the assigned question). If you decide to choose your own question, you are required to clearly state it at the beginning of your paper. In order to take advantage of this option, you must have your question approved by the instructor two weeks in advance (no later than March 14).

**Submission Checklist for all Papers:**
1. Knowledge: Demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.
2. Knowledge: Demonstrate your knowledge of the analytical theme. This assignment is not a research paper. You are not expected to undertake independent research or consult external sources. If you have read external sources that are relevant to the analytical theme or novel, you are allowed to refer to them, but you should make sure that this does not come at the expense of demonstrating your knowledge of assigned readings from the course. You will not necessarily do better by using external sources and you may even do worse if this adversely affects your engagement with course materials.
3. Analysis: Put the novel and the analytical theme together in a way that effectively engages with both.
4. Analysis: Develop a coherent and analytical central thesis that frames your discussion. Your central thesis should be well supported, both theoretically and empirically, and developed throughout your essay.
5. Analysis: Always explicitly justify your choices and explicitly give reasons for the positions you take.
6. Sources: Cite all of your sources carefully throughout. Use parenthetical citations. Attach a bibliography that lists all works cited at the end (this is in addition to the 1000 words). Consult the handouts “How not to plagiarize” and “Standard documentation formats” for further guidance.
7. Sources: Submit your essay to turnitin.com for textual similarity review.
9. Length: Include a word count at the end of your essay. Longer or shorter essays will be penalized.
10. Format: Stay within the parameters of the assignment. Your essay should be 1000 words in length (including all parenthetical citations, but excluding the bibliography), double-spaced, in a standard font (no smaller than Times 12 or equivalent) and with normal margins (at least 1 inch on all sides). Make sure to note your name, the course code, and the name of your instructor and TA at the top of your essay (and not in a separate cover sheet). To help save paper, avoid using separate cover pages and print your essays double-sided if you can. Remember to staple all the pages of your essay together.
11. Course policies: Review course policies stated on pages 2-3 of the syllabus.