

POL 329S: EXPERIENCES OF CONFLICT

Winter 2020, 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 and theoretical accounts of how conflict is analyzed by political scientists. It gives students a practical understanding of the human dimension of the conflicts depicted by the novels 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. Steven Galloway, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, (Knopf Canada, 2008)
2. Khushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan*, (Grove Press, 1961) or (Penguin, 2007)
3. Chimamanda Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, (Vintage Canada, 2007)
4. Joseph Boyden, *Three Day Road*, (Penguin, 2006)
5. Selected articles and book chapters available electronically via U of T libraries and on reserve

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

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

Peer review	5%
Paper 1	30%
Paper 2	30%
Term test	25%
Participation	10%

The peer review (5% of the final grade) will take place in class and will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students are required to bring a complete draft of their first paper to class for this assignment.

The papers (30% of the final grade for each paper) will answer an assigned question and engage in depth with **both** the novel and political science readings specified by the question. Additional instructions are provided on the last page of the syllabus. Length for each paper: 1000 words.

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.

Participation (10% of the final grade) will be assessed on the basis of class attendance, the online completion of assigned just-in-time teaching tasks (JITTs), and informed participation in class discussions. Students are responsible for making sure to sign the attendance sheet, which will be circulated at the beginning of class every week; otherwise they will not receive attendance credit.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 19	Last day to add course
January 30	Peer review (Draft of paper 1 due for peer review)
February 6	Paper 1 due
March 12	Paper 2 due
March 15	Last day to drop course without academic penalty
April 2	Term test
April 3	Last day to request late withdrawal at college registrar
TBA	Last day to file a petition regarding term work

COURSE POLICIES

Assignment submission: All written assignments must be submitted online on quercus. For the peer review, an additional hard copy of the draft paper must be brought to class on its due date.

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, for example an illness supported by an official U of T medical certificate. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of missed term work. Assignments and tests from other courses scheduled for the same day, work commitments, and transportation or printing problems do not constitute acceptable reasons, so plan in advance accordingly. No extensions will be granted on papers beyond the date that marked papers have been returned to the class.

Length penalties: Students should include word counts on all written assignments. Assignments that are more than 10% longer or shorter than the assigned word count will be penalized by **5%**.

Late penalties: Written assignments must be on quercus submitted by **11 am** on their due date. Late assignments will be penalized. The late penalty is **2% per late day**, weekends included. The cut-off time for the calculation of late days is 11 am, as determined by submission times on quercus. Late assignments will not be accepted after marked assignments have been returned to the class.

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 should review “How Not to Plagiarize” and other advice on using 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.

Grade appeals: Students who have concerns about the mark they received can request that their work be remarked within 2 weeks after their marked assignments have been returned. All appeal requests have to be submitted in writing and must include a statement of the **substantive reasons** student have for their request and what students feel was overlooked in the marking of their work. All appeals have to be submitted to the TA. After the TA responds to students, any remaining concern should be submitted in writing to the instructor. In accordance with the Faculty of Arts and Science policies, grades may go up, stay the same, or go down in the appeal process.

RESOURCES

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

Registrar: Students are encouraged to contact their registrar promptly if they experience unexpected difficulties during the course that may require accommodations.

Writing skills: Students can visit www.writing.utoronto.ca for advice on all aspects of academic writing. Students are encouraged to 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 critical reading skills, at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

LECTURES

The course will meet for 2 hours of lecture per week, according to the following schedule:

January 9	Week 1	Distribution of Syllabus
January 16	Week 2	Political science: Obedience and Resistance
January 23	Week 3	Novel: Galloway
January 30	Week 4	Peer Review (bring hard copy of draft paper 1 to class)
February 6	Week 5	Political science: Self-Determination (paper 1 due)
February 13	Week 6	Novel: Singh
February 20	No class	Reading Week
February 27	Week 7	Political science: Civil Wars
March 5	Week 8	Novel: Adichie
March 12	Week 9	Political science: Reconciliation (paper 2 due)
March 19	Week 10	Novel: Boyden
March 26	Week 11	Political science: Dehumanization
April 2	Week 12	Term test (Room TBA)

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Distribution of Syllabus

- No reading assignment.

Week 2: Political Science: 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: Political Science: Self-Determination

- Allen Buchanan, “Democracy and Secession” in Margaret Moore (ed.), [*National Self-Determination and Secession*](#), (Oxford University Press, 1998), ch. 2.
- David Miller, “Secession and the Principle of Nationality” in Margaret Moore (ed.), [*National Self-Determination and Secession*](#), (Oxford University Press, 1998), ch. 4
- 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: Peer Review

- No reading assignment. Draft of paper 1 required for peer review.

Week 7: Political Science: 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: Political Science: Reconciliation

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Honoring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, (May 2015), pp. 1-25.
- 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: Dehumanization

- 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.

Week 12: Term Test

PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Write a paper that answers the assigned question. Submit your papers on **quercus** by **11 am** on the due date. Make sure to develop a coherent central thesis that offers an in-depth engagement with and integrates insights from **both** the specified novel and the specified political science readings. Remember to explicitly justify your choices and to explicitly give reasons for the positions you take.

This assignment is a response paper on selected course materials. It is not a research paper. You are not expected to undertake independent research or consult external sources. You are instead expected to analyze the specified course materials in depth. If you use external sources at the expense of course materials, you will not meet the parameters of the assignment and will not do well on your paper.

Each paper is worth 30% of your final course grade. **Length: 1000 words** (not including the bibliography). Make sure to include a word count at the end of your paper.

Paper 1: Draft for peer review due **January 30**. Final copy due **February 6**.

Novel: Galloway

Political science: Obedience and Resistance

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 12**.

Novel: Adichie

Political science: Civil Wars

Question: Civil wars and civil violence are caused by groups who hate each other. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Optional: For paper 2 only, you have the option of suggesting your own question (instead of answering the assigned question above). If you decide to write your own question, you are required to clearly state it at the beginning of your paper and to have your question approved by the instructor two weeks in advance of the due date (no later than **February 27**). Papers with unapproved questions will not be accepted.

Submission Checklist for Papers:

- (1) Knowledge: Demonstrate your in-depth knowledge of the specified novel.
- (2) Knowledge: Demonstrate your in-depth knowledge of the specified political science readings.
- (3) Analysis: Integrate effectively insights from **both** the novel and political science readings.
- (4) Analysis: Develop a coherent **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 a **parenthetical citation** style of your choice consistently (either MLA or APA). Attach a bibliography that lists all the works cited at the end (this is in addition to the 1000 words). Consult the handouts “How not to plagiarize” and “Standard documentation formats” to make sure you do not make unintentional mistakes in the way you acknowledge sources.
- (7) Sources: Submit your essay to turnitin.com for textual similarity review automatically via quercus.
- (8) Style: Use good style, relevant terminology, and precise language. Avoid unnecessary jargon. Avoid overly long sentences. Check for spelling and grammar errors before submitting.
- (9) Length: Include a word count. Your paper should be 1000 words (including all parenthetical citations, but excluding the bibliography). Remember that papers that are 10% longer or shorter will be penalized.
- (10) Format: Your paper should be double-spaced, in a standard font (no smaller than Times 12 or equivalent) and with normal margins (at least 1 inch on all sides).
- (11) Course policies: Review course policies concerning extensions and penalties stated on the syllabus.
- (12) Submission: Submit your papers on **quercus** by **11 am** on the due date. Remember that late papers will be penalized.