POL 329F: EXPERIENCES OF CONFLICT
Fall 2020, Wednesdays 6-8 pm
Mode of Delivery: Online Synchronous

Instructor: Professor Nancy Bertoldi
Email: nancy.bertoldi@chass.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Alesha Porisky
Email: alesha.porisky@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course reviews selected novels that deal with personal and collective experiences of conflict. It focuses on literary representations of conflict in conjunction with theoretical analyses of conflict by political scientists. It gives students a practical understanding of the human dimension of conflict 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.

COURSE READINGS
The following reading materials will be used in the course:
- Selected articles and book chapters available electronically via U of T library or online courses reserves
- Steven Galloway, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, (Knopf Canada, 2008)
- Khushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan*, (Grove Press, 1961) or (Penguin, 2007)
- Chimamanda Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, (Vintage Canada, 2007)

One of the following books will be used by groups of students for their presentations as assigned by Quercus:
- Chimamanda Adichie, *Americanah*, (Knopf Canada, 2013)

The books are available for purchase at U of T Bookstore and can also be purchased online. Different editions of the books (including kindle editions) are acceptable. At this time, Robarts library does not provide in-person short-term loan services due to COVID-19, but this may change as the pandemic evolves.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Format and Delivery:
- The course will meet for 2 hours of required lectures per week. Lectures will be delivered online synchronously. The default technological platform for the delivery of lectures will be Bb Collaborate at the start of the term. Zoom may be used as a back-up if unexpected technical difficulties with Bb Collaborate are encountered. If this happens, further details will be provided on Quercus. Access to these software packages is available through the University of Toronto.
- Students are responsible for course materials covered in both the reading assignments and the lectures. Lectures and readings are complementary, but they do not overlap. Lectures presuppose familiarity with the readings, so students should complete reading assignments before the start of each week’s lecture.
- Students are expected to attend and participate in lectures synchronously at their scheduled times.
Lectures will be recorded and posted on Quercus to facilitate student learning and to allow students to review them again asynchronously for personal study purposes, but this is not a substitute for synchronous attendance and synchronous participation. Students who are unable to attend lectures synchronously at their scheduled time due to legitimate reasons (for example, because of differences in time zones) should contact the instructor immediately to arrange for make-up assignments for synchronous attendance and synchronous participation. No attendance and participation credit will be given for missed synchronous lectures prior to the date that make-up arrangements have been put into place. Students who add the course later in the term or students who are unable to attend class on an occasional basis due to legitimate reasons should also arrange for make-up assignments no later than one week after the missed class.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

- Performance in the course will be evaluated based on the following components:
  - Paper 1: 30%
  - Paper 2: 30%
  - Presentation: 25%
  - Participation: 15%
- Additional instructions for each component are provided below and in subsequent pages of the syllabus.

**Papers:**

- 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.
- Length for each paper: 1000 words.

**Presentation:**

- The presentation will give students the opportunity to collaborate with their peers in small groups of students. Groups and questions for the presentation will be assigned by Quercus.
- Students will be expected to submit an honor statement to confirm that they have complied with course expectations about group work for the presentation, as outlined on the syllabus.
- The presentation (25% of the final grade in total) will have three components: a group paper (15% of the final grade), a class presentation (5% of the final grade), and a presentation handout (5% of the final grade).
- The group paper (15% of the final grade) will answer an assigned question and engage in depth with both the novel and political science readings specified by the question.
- Each group will also deliver a 5-minute presentation to the class on the designated date (5% of the final grade) and post a handout that summarizes the main points of the group paper on Quercus (5% of the final grade).
- Length for group paper: 1000 words. Length for presentation handout: 300 words.

**Participation:**

- Participation (15% of the final grade in total) will be assessed based on the following components: the online completion of assigned just-in-time teaching tasks (JITTs) prior to the start of class (5% of the final grade), attendance in online synchronous classes (5% of the final grade), and informed online oral participation in synchronous class discussions (5% of the final grade).
- JITTs: JITTs will include questions from the required readings to prepare students for upcoming class discussions and to give students opportunities to provide feedback to the instructor. Links to weekly JITTs will be sent by google forms posted to Quercus no later than 48 hours prior to the start of class and must be completed by students prior to the start of that week’s class. The forms will be closed after their due dates.
• Synchronous attendance and synchronous participation: Students are expected to attend classes synchronously at their scheduled times. Students who are unable to do so due to legitimate reasons are expected to contact the instructor to arrange for make-up assignments for attendance and participation. No attendance and participation credit will be given for missed synchronous classes prior to the date that make-up arrangements have been approved. Alternative avenues for oral participation will be provided with links to google forms.

• Students who do not have access to google forms should inform the instructor immediately to arrange for alternatives.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 23</td>
<td>Last day to add course, course fee freeze date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Paper 1 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Last day to add or remove a CR/NCR option, last day to cancel courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Paper 2 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Group paper due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Handouts due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Presentations scheduled in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Last day to request late withdrawal at Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Last day to file a petition regarding term work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ONLINE CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Copyright:**

- Lectures and all other course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor’s intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. Course materials such as PowerPoint slides, lecture recordings, or other online or mixed media materials may be made available on Quercus to students currently registered in the class strictly for their own personal study purposes. These materials cannot be shared outside of the class or “published” in any way. Course materials may not be reproduced or posted or shared anywhere other than the official course Quercus site and should only be used by students currently registered in the course. Posting lecture recordings, lecture slides or any other course materials to other websites or to any other media without the express permission of the instructor will constitute copyright infringement.

- To facilitate student learning, lecture recordings will be posted on Quercus. These recordings are intended to be used as a student study aid and are not a substitute for regular attendance in synchronous sessions. Recordings may not be reproduced or posted or shared anywhere other than the official course Quercus site and should only be used by students currently registered in the course. Students agree not to distribute lecture recordings via any distribution channels without permission from the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction, copying or use of online recordings will constitute copyright infringement.

**Use of Technology:**

- Course offerings at the University have moved online, creating new ways to connect and collaborate with your professors and peers.

- The University of Toronto expects all its members to behave responsibly and with courtesy and respect for others when using technology.

- The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity.

- All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another’s differences.
• Students should make sure to read the University’s Student Code of Conduct <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-student-conduct-december-13-2019> and the University’s policy on the Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology <https://www.provost.utoronto.ca/planning-policy/information-communication-technology-appropriate-use/>.

**Online Participation:**

• Students are encouraged to participate in synchronous online classes as they would in an in-person class. Active and informed participation in online synchronous classes is required and constitutes part of the participation mark.

• To facilitate student learning, lectures will be recorded and posted on Quercus. Students who choose to participate synchronously should be aware that their online participation will be part of these recordings. Students who choose not to be visible in the video recordings can leave their cameras turned off. Student voices will generally be captured in the audio recording when they ask a question or make a comment in class. Students who have concerns about their voice being recorded should make use of the alternative means of participation that will be provided by the instructor.

• To participate synchronously, students can either “raise their hands” or type the words “comment/question” in the chat window; the instructor will then call on students to manage the flow of participation.

• Students who choose not to participate in online synchronous sessions due to privacy or other concerns will be provided with alternative avenues of participation via google forms. Students who do not have access to google should inform the instructor immediately to arrange for alternatives.

**Group Work:**

• Students are expected to treat the group work required for the student presentations with the seriousness and commitment it deserves. This includes but is not limited to: contributing substantially and proportionally to all the required components of the presentation; committing to a high standard of work and level of participation as agreed upon by the group; ensuring familiarity with the entire content of all the required components of the presentation; ensuring that all group members voice their opinions, thoughts, and concerns openly and in an inclusive and considerate environment; taking personal responsibility for voicing your own thoughts to enhance and contribute to group learning; accepting and acknowledging that any component of the presentation that is found to be plagiarized in any way will be subject to sanctions for all group members under the University’s Code of Behavior on Academic Matters.

• All members of the same group will receive a single group grade for all components of the presentation.

• Group members will be expected to submit an honor statement on Quercus that confirms that they and their group members have complied with course expectations. Students who do not submit the honor code will not receive credit for the presentation.

• Once groups are created, meeting space will be provided on Quercus for the groups to be able to pursue their collaborative project.

• If students encounter any difficulties that cannot be resolved within the group, they should contact the instructor for guidance.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Assignment Submission:** All assignments must be submitted online on Quercus by 12 midnight on their due dates.

**Extensions and Make-ups:** No extensions or make-ups will be granted on any assignments, 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, or transportation problems do not constitute acceptable reasons, so students should plan accordingly in advance. No extensions will be granted on assignments beyond the date that marked assignments 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**: Late assignments will be penalized. The late penalty is 2% per late day, weekends included. The number of late days will be 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](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.

**Appeals**: Students who have concerns about the mark they received can request that their work be remarked within two weeks after their marked assignments have been returned. Appeal requests must be submitted in writing and must include a statement of the substantive reasons that student have for their request and what students feel was overlooked in the marking of their work. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the TA first. After the TA responds to students, any remaining concerns 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 appeals process.

**RESOURCES**

**Accessibility Services**: The course is fully committed to providing students with fair access to their courses. Students with special needs or disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Accessibility Services to arrange for needed accommodations.

**Writing Support**: Students can attend workshops and arrange one-on-one appointments for feedback on their written work. Students can visit [www.writing.utoronto.ca](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca) for information and 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](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](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](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell).

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

**Health and Wellness**: Students can access a wide range of programs and services to support their health and wellbeing. Many of these programs are listed at: [https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/](https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/)
Crisis Support: Students in distress can access a range of free crisis lines available from the University of Toronto and the City of Toronto, as listed below:

- University of Toronto: [https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/support-when-you-feel-distressed/](https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/support-when-you-feel-distressed/)

Most of these crisis lines are available 24 hours a day and some address specific problems that students may be experiencing. Immediate assistance is available as follows:

- My SSP for University of Toronto Students: 1-844-451-9700.
- Good 2 Talk Student Helpline: 1-866-925-5454
- Gerstein Crisis Centre: 416-929-5200
- Distress Centres of Greater Toronto: 416-408-HELP (4357)
- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): 250 College Street (walk-in)

You are not alone: please get help if you’re experiencing difficulties and are in distress.

LECTURES

Lectures are scheduled weekly on Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. There is no class on November 11 due to reading week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sep 16</td>
<td>Distribution of Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 23</td>
<td>Obedience and Resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 30</td>
<td>Galloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Self-Determination (presentation groups assigned)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Civil Wars (paper 1 due)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Adichie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Boyden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Immigration and Dehumanization (paper 2 due)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Wellness and Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Student Presentations (group paper due on Dec 7, handout due on Dec 8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

READING ASSIGNMENTS

**Week 1: Distribution of Syllabus**


**Week 2: Obedience and Resistance**


**Week 3: Galloway**


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

Week 6: Civil Wars

Week 7: Adichie
• Chimamanda Adichie, Half of a Yellow Sun, (Vintage Canada, 2007).

Week 8: Reconciliation

Week 9: Boyden
• Joseph Boyden, Three Day Road, (Penguin, 2006).

Week 10: Immigration and Dehumanization

Week 11: Wellness and Peace

Week 12: Student Presentations (as assigned on Quercus)
• Chimamanda Adichie, Americanah, (Knopf Canada, 2013)
Submit your papers on Quercus by **12 midnight** on their due dates. Each paper is worth **30% of your final grade**.

- Write a paper that answers the assigned question. Your paper should be **1000 words** in length (not including the bibliography). Make sure to include a word count at the end of your paper. Papers that are more than 10% longer or shorter will be penalized.
- Make sure you demonstrate your in-depth knowledge of both the novel and political science readings specified by the question. This assignment is a response paper on designated 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. If you use external sources at the expense of course materials, you will not meet the parameters of the assignment and you will not do well.
- Make sure to develop a coherent **central thesis** that integrates insights from both the specified novel and the specified political science readings. Your central thesis should frame your discussion and should be developed and be well supported, both theoretically and empirically, throughout your paper. Remember to always explicitly justify your choices and to explicitly give reasons for the positions you take.
- Cite all 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” that are posted on Quercus to make sure you acknowledge sources correctly.
- Use good style, relevant terminology, and precise language. Avoid unnecessary jargon. Avoid overly long sentences. Check for spelling and grammar errors. 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).

**Paper 1:** Due on **October 21**. Answer **one** of the following questions:

**OPTION 1:** (for paper 1)
**Novel:** Galloway, The Cellist of Sarajevo
**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?

**OPTION 2:** (for paper 1)
**Novel:** Singh, Train to Pakistan
**Political science:** Self-Determination
**Question:** Morality is a luxury of peace that cannot be afforded in times of conflict. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

**Paper 2:** Due on **November 25**. Answer **one** of the following questions:

**OPTION 1:** (for paper 2)
**Novel:** Adichie, Half of a Yellow Sun
**Political science:** Civil Wars
**Question:** Civil wars and violence are caused by groups who hate each other. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

**OPTION 2:** (for paper 2)
**Novel:** Boyden, Three Day Road
**Political science:** Reconciliation
**Question:** War is a stern teacher, with inevitable consequences for those caught within its grip. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
PRESENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit your group papers, presentation handouts, and honor statements on Quercus by **12 midnight** on their due dates.

The presentation (25% of the final grade in total) will give students the opportunity to collaborate with their peers in small groups. Groups and presentation questions will be assigned by Quercus. Students should review the expectations for group work stated in the online code of conduct section of the syllabus.

The presentation will have three components: a group paper, a presentation handout, and a class presentation. The expectations for each component are described below.

**Presentation Novels**: (to be assigned to groups by Quercus)
- Lahiri, The Namesake
- Adichie, Americanah

**Presentation Political Science Questions**: (to be assigned to groups by Quercus)
1. How does the novel represent experiences of immigration?
2. How does the novel address processes of dehumanization?
3. How does the novel address dilemmas of identity formation?
4. How does the novel address possibilities for moral choice?
5. How does the novel address the dynamics of obedience and resistance?
6. How does the novel address possibilities for reconciliation?

**Group paper**: (15% of the final grade): due on **December 7**
- Write a paper that answers your assigned question on your assigned novel. Your paper should be **1000 words** in length (not including the bibliography). Make sure to include a word count at the end of your paper. Papers that are more than 10% longer or shorter will be penalized.
- The paper should demonstrate your in-depth knowledge of both the novel and political science readings specified by the question. This assignment is a response paper on designated 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. If you use external sources at the expense of course materials, you will not meet the parameters of the assignment and you will not do well.
- Make sure to develop a coherent **central thesis** that integrates insights from both the specified novel and the specified political science readings. Your central thesis should frame your discussion and should be developed and be well supported, both theoretically and empirically, throughout your essay. Remember to always explicitly justify your choices and to explicitly give reasons for the positions you take.
- Cite all 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” that are posted on Quercus to make sure you acknowledge sources correctly.
- Use good style, relevant terminology, and precise language. Avoid unnecessary jargon. Avoid overly long sentences. Check for spelling and grammar errors. 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).

**Presentation Handout**: (5% of the final grade) due on **December 8**
- Each group will post a short handout of their presentation that summarizes the main points of their group paper on Quercus.
- Length for presentation handout: 300 words
• The handout should clearly communicate the central thesis of the group paper and the evidence for it. Concepts that are used should also be explained. Images are allowed and can be incorporated.
• All sources should be cited carefully throughout the handout with a parenthetical citation style. A bibliography should be attached (this is not included in the 300 words).
• The handout is very short, so make every word count!

**Class Presentation:** (5% of the final grade) scheduled in class on **December 9**

• Each group will be expected to prepare a short presentation (1 minute per each student in the group) that they deliver to the class online during the scheduled presentations. Given class size, this is a rigid time limit. Students should keep in mind that the total time limit passes very quickly and are strongly encouraged to practice delivering the presentation in advance.
• Presentations should clearly communicate the central thesis of the group paper and the evidence for it to the class.
• All group members are expected to speak during the presentation.
• Screen sharing and use of online audio-visual or mixed media materials is allowed, although students should make sure this does not come at the expense of communicating their main points. Time is short, so do keep track of time!
• Students have the option of preparing a video in advance for their class presentation if they choose.

**Honor Statement:** (ungraded but required) to be submitted no later than **December 9**

• Group members will be expected to submit an honor statement on Quercus to confirm that they and their group members have complied with course expectations as outlined in the syllabus.
• Students who do not submit the honor code will not receive credit for any of the three components of the presentation.