This course explores the dynamics of civil conflict and ethnic violence and the challenges and dilemmas of transitioning to a stable post-conflict order. The course introduces students to a broad knowledge of the concepts, theoretical traditions, and debates in the study of civil war and provides them with the analytical tools for understanding and evaluating different explanations of the causes, trajectories, consequences, and challenges of civil conflicts.

The first half of the course examines the origins, dynamics, and processes of civil war. Since the end of the Cold War, intrastate conflict has become the most common form of political violence. We will explore important theoretical questions, including why people, groups, and states fight. Then we will analyze different approaches to conflict resolution, including intervention, political settlements, power sharing, and reconciliation. The second half of the course examines particular challenges of rebuilding states and societies after war. We will explore the different dilemmas posed in these contexts, including with regard to rebuilding institutions and state capacity, reintegrating ex-combatants, promoting economic growth, and addressing accountability for past crimes. The course approaches these issues with a focus on the emerging academic literature and central theoretical debates, while grounding the discussions in an empirical base of case studies within which students will identify key themes and issues.

**Course Requirements**

The course relies on textbooks and academic journal articles related to the weekly topics. The journal articles are available online using your UTORid, and students are expected to search for these articles using the library system. Students are also required to stay on top of major world events by reading the news. Significant world events, including those that are not directly covered in class or assigned readings.
This is an online synchronous course. Students must commit to scheduled class times and sign onto Zoom on schedule. Students will watch video lessons and slideshow presentations live during class and even have virtual class discussions. You will need a webcam, fast internet, and earphones with a functioning microphone.

### Course Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation/attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global challenge exercise</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>October 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay proposal</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>November 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-Page critical essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>December 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assignment Policies

Assignments are to be handed at the beginning of class on the date specified above. Late assignments will receive a 5% per day penalty, including weekends. Late papers are to be submitted using Quercus. Please keep a copy of work handed in until the marked copy is returned to you.

Extensions on term work will only be granted in exceptional circumstances beyond your control (i.e., documented illness, injury, death of a family member). Requests for extension should be made as soon as possible. This is a short course, which necessitates remaining on top of assignment deadlines. More information on extensions/missed exams due to circumstances beyond your control can be found here: artsci.utoronto.ca/current/petitions/common.

**Essay Proposal 25%:** I will provide a list of topics for the major research paper, mostly related topics and case studies relevant to the course but which we will not be formally covering. Students may also select their own topics with the instructor’s approval. Once chosen you will be asked to draft a short 4 to 6-page proposal outlining your topic, your research questions, the structure of your essay and a list of 8 to 10 sources (secondary and primary) that you will be using to support your research, choices, including some discussion as to how these sources will inform your discussion. Your proposal should also include a thesis statement and supporting arguments. The draft should be no more than 6 pages in length, double-spaced, including the bibliography. It will be due at the start of class on November 11.

**Global Challenge Exercise (20%):** In the first two weeks of the course, we will select up to 5 global challenge areas for the class to explore. This will prepare you for those weeks and allow you to gain an in-depth knowledge of key global challenges.

The full details of the global challenges project will be provided in week 2 when we have settled on the challenges. The project will include tracking the challenge during the course of the term, assessing the politics of the challenge from a theoretical and practical perspective,
and linking the challenge to your experience. This assignment should not be more than 8-pages. It will be due at the start of class on October 14th.

**Participation (15%):** As an online seminar, regular attendance, preparation and participating in the discussions is absolutely essential to success. Review of all the required readings is expected, and a skimming of at least one or two of the recommended readings and documents is highly advised. To keep the reading load manageable, for the required readings be sure at least to get the author(s) central point and be aware of his or her supporting evidence.

**Major Research Paper (40%):** Building on your proposal and your global challenge assignment, the major research paper will be a 22-25-page paper on your chosen topic. Students will be expected to use an array of secondary and primary sources, including books, scholarly journal articles, newspapers and periodicals, and other relevant documents. Your paper will be evaluated on the quality and breadth of your research, clarity and originality of analysis, writing style, proper formatting and the correct use of citations. The effectiveness of a paper’s argument/analysis will be inhibited if not built on a solid research foundation, or if it is not well organized structurally or if not written clearly. Your paper must have a clear argument (thesis statement). It is expected that you will do your first paper draft, and research paper on the same topic. Using the theoretical approaches and empirical material taught in the course, you must argue in favor or against any case of your choice. Expectations for the paper and paper proposal will be discussed further during the course, and a list of suggested cases will be made available early in the course. The major research paper will be due on December 5th.

- The paper should be ~5000 words (22-25 pages), not including notes and bibliography;
- You must utilize at least twelve sources, seven of which were included in your proposal (if you unable to meet this requirement due to changes in response to feedback provided by the instructor, you are required to consult the instructor).
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with normal margins;
- Complete, proper, and consistent citation practices are required; and
- Assignments must use Chicago Style Citations (instructions and guides to be posted to Quercus).

**POLICY REGARDING LATE SUBMISSIONS, PENALTIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

Part of professionalism is effective time management and respect for deadlines. Except for reasons that the University recognizes as warranting consideration, extensions will not otherwise be granted. Late papers will be docked on a *sliding scale per day* (weekends are included as submission is electronic via Quercus and can be done 24/7). The deductions will be as follows:

- The first two days late the penalty is 5% per day
- 3rd and 4th day late the penalty is 7% per day
- The 5th to 7th day late inclusive the penalty is 10% per day
- After one week the assignment receives a zero unless supported by accommodation documentation as listed below.

For ANY special considerations/deadline extensions either for illness or on compassionate grounds, what is required is an email to either of the course instructors from your College Registrar or your Accessibility Services Counsellor (if you are registered there). Due to
privacy and recordkeeping requirements please do NOT send me directly confidential medical notes. Where accommodation is granted this includes setting a new deadline. Please keep in mind your instructor also has obligations to grade and return assignments in a timely fashion, and I need the appropriate time to give each its proper assessment.

Assignment submission

Quercus: We are using Quercus in this course. You should access the course regularly to check for announcements, broadcasts, etc. You will need your UTORid and password. Login at http://portal.utoronto.ca. For technical help and information, please contact: quercus@utoronto.ca.

Turnitin: Normally, students will be required to submit their final research paper 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 services are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Writing Resources: The University of Toronto provides a number of valuable resources to students to assist with writing. Undergraduate students taking summer courses are able to book appointments with the five writing centers, which remain open during the summer, including: Innis College, University College, New College, Woodsworth College and Victoria College writing centers. Appointment information is available at: http://writing.utoronto.ca/

Accessibility: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility and will make every attempt to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to persons who have disabilities. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or class materials, please contact Accessibility Services (http://discover.utoronto.ca/students-with-a-disability) and/or the instructors as soon as possible.

Classroom etiquette:

At the core of this course is meaningful and constructive dialogue, which requires mutual respect, willingness to listen and tolerance of different views. Class discussions are expected to be civilized and respectful to different viewpoints. To maintain a healthy learning environment, this classroom has a zero-tolerance policy on racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, discrimination and harassment. Each student will be addressed by their preferred pronouns. Violating this policy will result in expulsion from the classroom. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto’s principles of Equity and Diversity: https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/edo/welcome-equity-and-diversity-office-utsc . Students are also expected to refrain from use of cellphones during class time, with exception of the use of laptops to take notes. Use of electronic devices for other purposes will be deemed disruptive to students’ learning.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect
and recognition it deserves. Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

**In papers and assignments:**

- Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
  - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work;
  - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while “editing”.
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

**On tests and exams:**

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else’s answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

**Misrepresentation:**

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor’s notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the Code. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from us, or from other available campus resources like the U of T Writing Website. If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to us or seek the advice of your college registrar.
Course Outline

September 16th

Discuss syllabus, assignments and course overview

On the first day of class, I will provide an overview of the course, including expectations for assignments, draft paper proposal, global challenge exercise, and final research paper. I will discuss potential research topics and answer questions about course assignments.

Conceptualizing Violent Conflict

Required readings:


Recommended Readings:


September 23rd

Economic Causes and Triggers of Civil Wars

Case studies: Nigeria, Liberia, Sudan, Congo, Indonesia, Colombia

Required readings:


Recommended Readings:


September 30th

Resource Curse

Case studies: DRC, Liberia, Sudan

Required readings:


**Recommended readings:**


**October 7th

*Identity and Violence: Ethnicity, Nationalism & Genocide*

**Case studies:** former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Burundi, Myanmar, Sri Lanka

**Required readings:**

Power, Samantha *A Problem from Hell: America in the Age of Genocide* ch 1, 1-16 and ch 10-(Rwanda), 9 (Bosnia), 247-328 ch. 11 and ch.12 (Kosovo), 443-473. *(Online as eBook).*


**Recommended readings:**


**October 14th**

**Civil War Duration and Termination**

*Paper proposals due*

**Required readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


October 21st

Violence and State Failure

Case studies: DR-Congo, Liberia, Sudan, Somalia and Sierra Leone

Required readings:


Recommended readings:

Gourevitch, Philip (1998) We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families: stories from Rwanda. New York: St Martin’s Press (Chapter 1 and 2)


October 28th

Third-Party intervention/ Humanitarian Intervention in Civil Wars

Case studies: Former Yugoslavia, Syria, Libya, Sudan

Required readings:


**Recommended readings:**


November 4th

**Civil War Settlements, Effects and Peace Processes**

**Required readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


November 11 (Reading Week. No Class)

November 18<sup>b</sup>

Peace Building and State Building (Part I): Theories and Concepts
Case studies: Afghanistan, Iraq, Rwanda, Cambodia, Sri Lanka

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


November 25<sup>b</sup>

Peacebuilding and state building (Part II): Peace-making, Negotiations & Peacekeeping

Required readings:


**Recommended**


Ripsman, Norrin M. “Two Stages of Transition from a Region of War to a Region of Peace: Realist Transition and Liberal Endurance“ *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (2005), 669-693.


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**December 2nd**

**Institution building:**

**Restoring Governance in Post-Conflict Societies**

**Case studies:** Guatemala, El Salvador, Rwanda and Côte d’Ivoire

**Required reading:**


**Recommended readings:**


**Final Paper Due (December 9th)**

**The End**