

INR 3006 Conflict, Violence, and Peace
Fall 2005, MWF noon- 12:50 p.m., 74/101
Instructor: Dr. Cuzán (acuzan@uwf.edu)
50/119, x 2345

Office hours: MW, 9:00 – noon, 1:00-3:00 p.m.;
(most) Fridays, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

(It is best if you make an appointment ahead of time by calling 474-2337.)

Violent political conflicts *within* nation-states, or civil wars, take a frightful toll of human life and contribute to much human suffering. In the last six decades alone, i.e., since the end of World War II, more people have died in civil wars than in interstate wars (16 million vs. 3 million, by some estimates). Additional millions have been forced to flee their homes and resettle somewhere else within or outside their country on account of large-scale, even genocidal violence perpetrated by their own governments, revolutionary organizations, or hostile ethno-cultural groups.

In this course we will examine some of the principal sources of civil wars in today's world, review a number of proposed remedies, and assess the justice and feasibility of several prescriptions for keeping the peace within nations. We will devote special attention to ethno-cultural conflicts which have plagued countries and even entire regions during the last several decades.

The course will address, *inter alia*, the following questions: What are the sources of violent political conflict? Under what conditions does it take an ethno-cultural dimension? How can political conflict be controlled, managed, or alleviated? How do civil wars end? What policy tools are available to stem internal violence once it breaks out, or to prevent its recurrence after it has run its course? What contribution, if any, can outside actors such as the UN or regional organizations make to the amelioration or conclusion of an internal conflict? Specifically, what can the U.S.A. do to help?

The principal learning outcomes anticipated from this course are (1) that at the end of the semester students should have a good understanding of the elements that make up possible answers to these and similar questions, and (2) that in the process of attaining this understanding, the students will acquire or sharpen reading, research, analytical, and communication skills.

Requirements. Three essays will serve as the functional equivalent of exams. The first essay will be a “synthetic essay.” In it you will compare and contrast several articles on the causes and the non-causes of war. The second essay will be a “review essay.” There you will summarize and evaluate reviews of one of the texts assigned to this course in light of your own reading and understanding of it. The third and last essay will be either another synthetic essay or a “case study essay” (I haven't decided yet). If the latter, you will test some of the hypotheses about settling civil wars in the context of a case study. Formats and an outlines for all three essays will be distributed in due course. Finally, a “preparation and contribution” (P&C) grade will be assigned on the basis of your preparedness and contributions to the class. This is discussed forthwith.

Preparation and Contribution. You are expected to come to class having read the assignment for the day, summarized it in your own words on one typewritten page or its equivalent in long hand, and ready to read it aloud when called upon to do so. (For what, exactly, it is that you should summarize of an essay, a book chapter, or a book review, [see](#) "Tips for Studying.") Start your summary with a dense sentence that lays out the theme developed in the chapter. Don't leave any doubt in the reader's mind as to what this chapter or article is all about. Then, in the rest of the page, expand on that sentence, giving the details of the argument and evidence presented in the assignment. Then you need to compare your summary of the reading with one done by me, posted on the e-learning page and available only after class. Mine are longer than yours, by design, because I want to be sure you get certain points. But pay special attention to the structure and, above all, to the opening sentence and paragraph of my summary. Strive to model future summaries according to what I have done. This will help you develop analytical and communication skills.

If you are absent from class, this will be recorded. If you are called upon to answer a question or to read your summary and it turns out that you are unprepared, this will also be recorded, although this fact will count less against you in the final grade than if you simply fail to show up for class. If, on the other hand, you are always prepared when I call on you and volunteer answers to questions or pose interesting questions or make comments relevant to the reading or lecture, and post quality comments on the e-learning page (when requested), you will not only get an excellent grade in P&C but, additionally, will get a little help from me, if needed, in the final grade, which could make the difference between say, a C+ and a B- or a B+ and an A-. Thus, in effect, class participation will be weighted a little more the better it is. If you miss either three class sessions in a row or six in total, this will call into question your commitment to the course and the instructor will suggest that you consider withdrawing before it is too late. You will get no help from me when the final grade is computed.

Grading. The factors going into the final grade as weighted as follows: the first synthetic essay, Essay #1, is worth 50 points; Essay #2, the review essay, is worth 100 points; and Essay #3 is worth 150 points. The P&C is worth 100 points.

Texts. The texts for the course are: Daniel L. Byman, *Keeping the Peace. Lasting Solutions to Ethnic Conflicts* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002); Barbara F. Walter, *Committing to Peace. The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002). Additional readings will be placed on reserve in the library or available on the internet. A schedule of assignments through the second week of October begins on the next page. The complete schedule will be distributed in due course. Be it noted that the instructor reserves the right to revise it after timely notice.

It goes without saying, but it bears repeating anyway, that anyone enrolled in this course makes a commitment to act with integrity. As the home page of the Department of Government puts it, this means "conducting ourselves honorably, conspicuously refraining from lying or cheating about our work There can be no phony excuses for

failing to complete an assignment, no turning in another's work as one's own, no plagiarism."

Regarding the last-named offense, here is UWF's plagiarism policy: "The UWF Student Handbook, Code of Student Conduct, Academic Misconduct, states: 'Plagiarism. The act of representing the ideas, words, creations or work of another as one's own.' Plagiarism combines theft with fraud, and the penalty is correspondingly severe: failure for the assignment and, in some cases, for the entire course. At the instructor's discretion, she/he may recommend that the student be suspended from the university. Ignorance of the rules about plagiarism is no excuse for it, and carelessness is just as bad as purposeful violation. Students who have plagiarized have cheated themselves out of the experience of being responsible members of the academic community and have cheated their classmates by pretending to contribute original ideas." For additional information on plagiarism, go the UWF's home page, click on keyword search, and enter "plagiarism policy" (in quotation marks), which allows you to download a word document several pages long.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

(The schedule, shown through October November 4th,
is subject to revision at instructor's discretion.)

Monday, August 22nd

Introduction to the course.

Wednesday, August 24th

L. Keely, "Conflict and War, Archaeology of," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, Elsevier: Science Direct, 2001, on the course e-learning page.

Friday, August 26th

C. R. Nordstrom, "War: Anthropological Aspects," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*,

Monday, August 29th

P. M. [Regan](#), "Internal Warfare: Civil War, Insurgency, and Regional Conflict," *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, on the course e-learning page.

Wednesday, August 31st

F. W. [Boal](#), "Ethnic Conflict, Geography of," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, on the course e-learning page.

Friday, September 2nd

A. Varshney, "Ethnic Conflicts and Ancient Hatreds," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, on the course e-learning page.

Monday, September 5th

Labor Day. No class.

Wednesday, September 7th

R. M. [Williams](#), "Ethnic Conflicts," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, on the course e-learning page.

Friday, September 9th

Byman, *Keeping the Peace*, "Preface" and Chapter 1.

Monday, September 12th

Essay # 1, the synthetic essay, due in drop box no later than 3:00 p.m. The drop box will close at that time, after which no paper will be accepted. No excuses admitted.

Wednesday, September 14th

Byman, Chapter 2.

Friday, September 16th

Byman, Chapter 3.

Monday, September 19th

Byman, Chapter 4.

Wednesday, September 21st

Byman, Chapter 5.

Friday, September 23rd

Byman, Chapter 6.

Monday, September 26th

Byman, Chapter 7.

Wednesday, September 28th

Byman, Chapter 8.

Friday, September 30th

Byman, Chapter 9.

Monday, October 3rd

No class. Work on Essay # 2, the review essay. See instructions.

Wednesday, October 5th

No class. Work on Essay #2.

Friday, October 7th

No class. Work on Essay #2.

Monday, October 10th

No class. Essay # 2 due in drop box no later than 3:00 p.m. The drop box will close at that time, after which no paper will be accepted. No excuses admitted.

Wednesday, October 12th

No class. Instead, if you're free, attend a lecture by Dinesh D'Souza, "Blue States, Red States: Why There Is a Culture War in America," in the lecture hall in Building 51, at 11:00 a.m.

Friday, October 14th

Walter, *Committing to Peace*, Ch. 1, Introduction.

Monday, October 17th

Walter, Ch. 2, 19-31.

Wednesday, October 19th

Walter, Ch. 2, 32-43.

Friday, October 21st

Walter, Ch. 3.

Monday, October 24th

Walter, Ch. 4

Wednesday, October 26th

Walter, Ch. 5

Friday, October 28th

Walter, Introduction to Part Three and Ch. 6 through p. 131

Monday, October 31st

Walter, Ch. 6, 131-end

Wednesday, November 2nd

Walter, Ch. 7

Friday, November 4th

Walter, Ch. 8

Monday, 7th – End Working on papers and presentations (to be scheduled).