

Civilians in War
Poli_Sci 395-0-21
Monday & Wednesday 11:00 – 12:20 pm
Scott Hall 212

Professor: Ana Arjona

Email: ana.arjona@northwestern.edu

Office: Scott Hall 237

Office hours: Wednesdays 4:50-5:50
Thursdays 2:20-3:20

Course description

This seminar explores the behavior of civilians in contexts of civil war. Why do they join rebels or paramilitaries? Why do they resist against the presence of these groups in their territory? Why do they support them? Why do they leave their hometowns to become refugees or internally displaced? How do they change their decisions regarding economic activities, social relations, and family dynamics? This course will explore different answers to these questions. By so doing, it will also expose students to different approaches to studying political science in general and political violence in particular. We will discuss what makes a theory sound, and what are the advantages and shortcomings of alternative research designs. Students will develop their capacity to assess how reliable are the answers we find in the existing literature given the quality of their theories and their empirical strategies.

The course is structured as follows. In the first two weeks, we will discuss the concept of “civilian” in contexts of civil war: what does it mean to be a civilian? How can we tell apart combatants from non-combatants? We will also explore different dimensions of the context in which civilians live and make choices within war zones. The second part of the course takes on specific questions about civilians’ choices in the midst of war: why do they support or cooperate with armed actors? Why do they enlist in them? Why do they denounce others to the warring sides? Why do they resist against insurgents or paramilitaries? In the last two weeks, we will discuss the effects of civil war on political and social behavior (mainly participation, trust, and collective action), and on their economic well-being.

Eligibility for enrollment

Students must have prior coursework in Political Science.

Requirements

(1) Memos

There is no midterm or final exam in this course. Instead, you will work on five small assignments and write a final paper that relies on those small assignments. You will pick up one case (one civil war or a particular region within a civil war). You should submit five short memos (2 pages, single-space) on that week’s topic as it applies to your case. For example, when we talk about recruitment, you should discuss the evidence that you found on recruitment in your case;

when we talk about civilian resistance, you should discuss what you learned about civilians resisting armed groups in your case, and so on and so forth. When writing your memo, make sure you use the readings for that week. For example, you can note how author A's approach helps us to understand why civilians with a specific attribute joined the rebels, or how author B's theory does not seem to explain why members of an ethnic group massively opposed the insurgents. You can also propose new hypotheses based on your case.

Each week when you are submitting a memo, you should upload your memo to blackboard on Tuesday by 8:00 p.m. so that I have enough time to read all the memos before class. I will give you a list of suggested cases in class. You have to pick a case by October 10, and you can start submitting memos on October 15. You have to submit 5 memos in total between October 15 and November 27.

(2) Final paper

At the end of the course you will use these memos as the basis for a final paper on your case. You should meet with me on November 8 or November 12 to talk about your topic for the final paper. You should submit a paper proposal by midnight on November 15, uploading it to Blackboard. I will give details about what this paper proposal should have in class.

When writing your final paper you should identify, read, and use new sources beyond the assigned readings. I will distribute additional guidelines for writing the final paper in class. The paper should be between 10 and 13 double-space pages long. It is due on December 4 by midnight. You should upload it to Blackboard.

(3) Attendance and participation

Attendance and participation in the discussion are mandatory. You are required to do *all* the readings and come prepared to discuss them in class. You are also expected to talk about your case (i.e. your memo for that week) so that all students benefit from learning about each topic as it applies to different cases. Your grade will depend on both the frequency and quality of your interventions.

Grades

Attendance and class participation	20%
Memos (8% each)	40%
Final paper	40%

Readings

All readings are available on Blackboard.

Schedule

1. Wednesday, September 25

Introduction

No readings assigned

2. Monday, September 30

Who is a civilian?

- Jann K. Kleffner, 2007. "From 'belligerents' to 'fighters' and civilians directly participating in hostilities – On the principle of distinction in non-international armed conflicts one hundred years after the Second Hague Peace Conference." *Netherlands International Law Review*, 54, pp. 316-336.
- Kalyvas, Stathis, 2006. "A Theory of Irregular War I: Collaboration." In *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 87-110.

The context of civilian-combatant relations I

3. Wednesday, October 2

- Stathis Kalyvas, "The Ontology of Political Violence," *Perspectives on Politics*, 2003, 1(3), pp. 475-494.
- Wood, Elisabeth. "The social processes of civil war: The wartime transformation of social networks". *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 11: 539-561.

The context of civilian-combatant relations II

4. Monday, October 7

- Kalyvas, Stathis. "A Theory of Irregular War II: Control." In *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, pp. 111-145.

5. Wednesday, October 9

- Arjona, Ana. "Social Order in Civil War." Book manuscript. Chapters 1 and 2.

Denunciation

You may start submitting your memos this week

6. Monday, October 14

- Kalyvas, Stathis. "Intimacy" In *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, pp. 330-363.
- Lubkemann, Stephen, 2005. "Migratory Coping in Wartime Mozambique: An Anthropology of Violence and Displacement in 'Fragmented Wars'." *Journal of Peace Research*, vol. 42, no. 4, 2005, pp. 493-508.

7. Wednesday, October 16

- Diana Dumitru, and Carter Johnson, "Constructing Interethnic Conflict and Cooperation: Why Some People Harmed Jews and Others Helped Them during the Holocaust in Romania," *World Politics*, 63(1), 2011, pp. 1-42.

Support and collaboration

8. Monday, October 21

- Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, 1996. *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*. Knopf. Pp. 1-24.
- Scott Straus, 2012. "Retreating from the Brink: Theorizing Mass Violence and the Dynamics of Restraint," *Perspectives on Politics*, 10 (2), pp. 343-362.

9. Wednesday, October 23

- Wood, Elisabeth, 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Pp. 1-30 & 226-256.

Recruitment

10. Monday, October 28

- Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy Weinstein. "Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War". *American Journal of Political Science* (April 2008).
- Kalyvas, Stathis, 2008. "Ethnic defection in civil war." *Comparative Political Studies*, vol. 41 no. 8, pp. 1043-1068.

11. Wednesday, October 30

- Parkinson, Sarah, 2013. "Organizing Rebellion: Rethinking High-Risk Mobilization and Social Networks in War." *American Political Science Review* vol. 107 (03) p. 418-432.
- Ana Arjona, 2013. "Recruitment in Civil War: An Institutional Approach." Working paper.

Resistance

12. Monday, November 4

- Finkel, Evgeny, 2013. "Political Identities and Resistance to Oppression: Ghetto Uprisings during the Holocaust." *Unpublished paper*. Pp. 1-36.
- Schubiger, Livia, 2011. "Civil War Violence and Counterinsurgent Mobilization in Peru." Unpublished paper.

13. Wednesday, November 6

- Kaplan, Oliver, 2013. "Protecting civilians in civil war: The institution of the ATCC in Colombia." *Journal of Peace Research* 50: 351, pp. 351-367.
- Starn, Orin, 1995. "To Revolt against the Revolution: War and Resistance in Peru's Andes." *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 10, No. 4, pp. 547-580.

Displacement

14. Monday, November 11

- Engel, Stefanie and Ana M. Ibañez, 2007. "Displacement Due to Violence in Colombia: A Household-Level Analysis." *Economic Development & Cultural Change*, January, Vol. 55 Issue 2, pp. 335-365.
- Steele, Abbey, 2009. "Seeking Safety: Avoiding Displacement and Choosing Destinations in Civil Wars." *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 46, No. 3, pp. 419-429.

15. Wednesday, November 13

No class today. Students should meet with the professor either on November 8 or November 12 to discuss final paper.

November 15: final paper proposal is due today by midnight. Upload your proposal to blackboard.

Civil war's effects on collective action, participation and trust

16. Monday, November 18

- Bateson, Regina, 2012. "Crime Victimization and Political Participation." *The American Political Science Review*, 106, 3, pp. 570-587.
- Bellows, John and Edward Miguel, 2009. "War and local collective action in Sierra Leone." *Journal of Public Economics* 93, pp. 1144–1157.

17. Wednesday, November 20

- Voors, Maarten J., Eleonora E. M. Nillesen, Philip Verwimp, Erwin H. Bulte, Robert Lensink, and Daan P. van Soest. 2012. "Violent Conflict and Behavior: A Field Experiment in Burundi." *American Economic Review* 102 (2): 941–64.
- Gáfaró, Margarita, Ana M. Ibañez and Patricia Justino, 2013. "Institutions and Armed Group Presence in Colombia." Working paper.

Civil war's effects on civilians' economic situation

18. Monday, November 25

- Justino, Patricia, 2006. "On the Links between Violent Conflict and Chronic Poverty: How Much Do We Really Know?" CPRC Working Paper 61. Pp. 1-21.
- Akresh, Richard, Philip Verwimp and Tom Bundervoet, 2011. "Civil War, Crop Failure, and Child Stunting in Rwanda." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* vol. 59 (4) p. 777-810.

19. Wednesday, November 27

- Chamarbagwala, Rubiana and Hilcías Morán, 2011. "The human capital consequences of civil war: Evidence from Guatemala." *Journal of Development Economics* 94, pp. 41–61.
- Blattman, Christopher and Jeannie Annan, 2010. "The consequences of child soldiering." *Review of Economics & Statistics*. vol. 92 (4) p. 882-898.

December 4: Final paper due today by midnight. Upload your paper to blackboard.