WAR AND SOCIETY
POLITICAL SCIENCE 490/SOCIOLOGY 476
WINTER 2018

Professors: Daniel Krcmaric and Robert Braun
Class Time: Mondays 10:00am-12:50pm
Class Location: Scott Hall 212
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:30pm (Krcmaric) & Tuesday/Thursday 5-6pm (Braun)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is an interdisciplinary graduate seminar titled co-taught by a political scientist (Krcmaric) and a sociologist (Braun). The idea behind the class is simple: political scientists and sociologists both have a rich tradition of studying political violence, but graduate students rarely get the chance to learn about how different disciplines address the same phenomena. For instance, the fields tend to differ in theoretical orientation (e.g., strategic rationality in political science and cultural explanations in sociology) and methods (e.g., statistical analysis in political science and ethnography in sociology). By encountering both intellectual traditions in the same class, graduate students will gain valuable interdisciplinary insights. We will focus in particular on examples where ideas have been borrowed from one field and applied to the other.

One special aspect of the course is its tight integration with the Buffett Institute’s War and Society Working Group (which Braun and Krcmaric co-direct). Specifically, we will match the outside speakers visiting Northwestern for the working group’s meetings with the seminar’s syllabus. This will allow graduate students to interact personally with the scholars they read in class. Students are not formally required to attend the War and Society workshops (which will be at noon on Jan. 26, Feb. 2, and Feb. 23), but it strongly suggested that they attend and participate in all the workshops.

EVALUATION

Students are evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **30% participation**: Most of our time in class will be spent discussing and analyzing the weekly readings, so attendance at and participation in the discussions are essential. You should complete the assigned readings before class and actively participate. This portion of your grade is based on both quantity (how often you discuss the readings, ask questions, etc.) and quality (comments based on a careful reading of the material vs. unsubstantiated opinions).

- **10% discussion leader**: Each student will serve as a “discussion leader” for one class. The role of the discussion leader is to help guide the class by highlighting common themes between the readings, identifying new topics for discussion, etc. We will provide additional guidance on this assignment during our first class meeting.
• **40% final paper**: The main assignment is a written paper of approximately 15-20 pages. The paper is due at the end of our scheduled final exam time. Students can pick from one of three options: a thematic literature review, a proposed research design for testing an argument in the student’s area of research, or a draft of an original research article. We will provide additional guidance on this assignment during our first class meeting, but the goal is to help students develop their own work in a way that will be useful beyond this class.

• **20% final presentation**: During a final class session, each student will present a brief overview of his/her paper. To help develop professional skills, this will take the form of a mock conference presentation.

**BOOKS AND ARTICLES**

All of the articles and most of the book chapters (EBOOK) listed on the syllabus are available online via the NU Library website. Students are responsible for acquiring these articles and book chapters. We will post copies of remaining book chapters to the course’s Canvas website (CANVAS). Students may wish to purchase their own copies of the books, but this is not required.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**January 8: Arguing across the Divide**


**January 15: No Class (MLK Jr. Day)**

No assigned readings

**January 22: Cross-Boundary Borrowing**


**January 29: Macro-Level Explanations**


**February 5: Identity**


**February 12: Inside Insurgency and Rebellion**


**February 19: Genocide**


February 26: Nonviolence


March 5: Nuclear Weapons


March 12: In Class Presentations

No assigned readings