

Spring 2009 SOCIOLOGY 376/476 Section 22

*Analyzing Civil Wars*

Co-instructors: Prof. Georgi M. Derluguian (Department of Sociology,  
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Political Science, Yale University)

Technological Institute L251, Tuesday–Thursday 2:00PM - 3:20PM

**Course description:** Civil wars are the main type of contemporary armed conflict. Sadly, a major item in international headlines are civil wars. Think Iraq, Afghanistan, Columbia, Somalia and Rwanda or, most recently, Georgia. This course provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview on civil wars: their causes, dynamics, outcomes, and aftermath. The goal is to equip students with analytical tools that, unfortunately, might become quite useful in their future careers. Imagine you are dropped in an unfamiliar country engulfed in civil strife (as a journalist, aid worker, diplomat/spy, or social scientist). How do you make sense of what is going on? How do you write about it?

**SPECIAL NOTE:** This course mixes upper-level undergraduate and graduate students. The assignments and expectations will be adjusted accordingly. Undergraduates are encouraged to read the graduate-level texts.

**Method:** Lecture and discussions moderated by the instructors. Films followed by discussion also play an important role in this class. Required are active class participation including research project presentation to the whole class (30% of final grade). Also expect to write the mid-term test (a take-home paper worth 30%) and the final investigative report (40%). There will be more lectures in the first part, more seminar discussion in the second part, and student presentations followed by discussion in the last part. THE FINAL PAPER SHOULD PRESENT YOUR OWN INVESTIGATION OF A PARTICULAR CIVIL WAR OR ONE OF ITS ASPECTS. IT MUST EXPLICITLY COMBINE THE THEORETICAL CONCEPTS LEARNED IN THIS COURSE WITH YOUR RESEARCH AT THE LIBRARY. THIS PAPER IS EXPECTED TO BE AN ANALYTICAL MEMO BETWEEN 15 AND 25 PAGES LONG.

**Required books:**

- Stathys Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. NY: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Georgi Derluguian, *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus*. The University of Chicago Press, 2005.

— Michael Mann, *The Dark Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

**Required books ordered at the Norris bookshop. All readings can be found at Library's Reserve.**

**Schedule of Classes and Readings.**

- 31 March **Doing fieldwork in a dangerous place: ethical and methodological dilemmas.** Read: Derluguian, *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer*, Introduction and Ch. 1 "The Field"
- 2 April **Theoretical preview of sociological approaches.** Read: Derluguian, *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer*, Ch. 2 "Complex Triangulations"
- 7 April **The *longue durée* macro-perspective: the world-systems analysis.** Read: Derluguian, "Theoretical reprise" and (coursepack) Immanuel Wallerstein, "Does India Exist?" Graduate level (henceforth **GL**): Wallerstein, *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*. (Duke University Press, 2005)
- 9 April **The *conjoncture* meso-perspective of Charles Tilly.** Read Derluguian Chs. 3 and 4. **GL:** Charles Tilly, "State-making and war-making as organized crime" in: *Roads from Past to Future*. Rowman & Littlefield, 1997; Randall Collins, "The maturation of state-centered theory of revolution" in Collins's *Macrohistory: essays in sociology of the long run* (Stanford University Press, 1999)
- 14 April **The 'daily life' perspective of Pierre Bourdieu.** Read Derluguian Ch. 5 "Social Structure". **GL:** Pierre Bourdieu and Loïc J.D. Wacquant. *An invitation to reflexive sociology*. (University of Chicago Press, 1992)
- 16 April **How do people become rebels?** Read Derluguian Ch. 6 "The Nationalization of Provincial Revolutions" and Ch. 7 "The scramble for Soviet Spoils" Film: Thomas Goltz "Samashki, Chechnya" (BBC)
- 21 April **The Neo-Weberian synthesis of Michael Mann.** Read Mann, *The Dark Side of Democracy*, Chs 1, 2, 3.
- 23 April **Historical example: the genocide of Armenians.** Read Michael Mann, Chs. 5 and 6. Recommended film: *Ararat* by Atom Egoyan.

28 April **Historical example: Russian civil war.** Film: *Chapayev* (1932) **GL:** Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Baku Commune, 1917-1918; class and nationality in the Russian revolution.* (Princeton University Press, 1972)

THE MIDTERM PAPERS ARE DUE ON 30 April.

Those who submit the midterms on April 23 get an extra 1/2 point.

30 April **POLITICAL SCIENCE APPROACHES** Read: Stathys Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War.* NY: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

5 May

BY MAY 5 EVERY STUDENT MUST SELECT A REASERCH TOPIC AND CLAIM A SPOT ON THE LIST OF CLASS PRESENTER

7 May

12 May

14 May

19 May STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

21 May STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

26 May STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

28 May STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

The research project paper must be submitted personally before 4PM on **Monday, June 8.** The Bonus deadlline (extra 1/2 point): **Tuesday June 2**