Spring 2015

Civil Conflict and Development

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Seton Hall University

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Civil Conflict and Development  
DIPL 6253 WB  
On-line, Spring 2015

Instructor:  Aaron Hale, Ph.D.  
Office hours:  M/W: 8 – 9:30 or by appointment (in-person or SKYPE)  
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Course Description:  
This course addresses one of the central challenges in post-conflict recovery, how to rebuild a viable economy that is able to meet the basic needs of the state and society. This course examines the economic consequences of civil wars and how states and international organizations have responded to the challenges of rebuilding post-conflict societies in light of weak national political institutions and economies with limited options. Students will appraise the possible tradeoffs that exist in forming governments that can protect property rights, reconstituting viable economies, and promoting peace across national territories. In evaluating the role of international actors (through foreign aid and the role of the IMF and World Bank), our aim is to examine approaches (prior and current) so as to develop and propose more optimal policies that mitigate these tradeoffs.

Course Objectives:  
1) To understand empirical scholarship on conflict and economics and explain the findings to an educated audience.  
2) To derive policy implications from academic research and explain them to an educated audience.  
3) To diagnose failings in the manner in which post-conflict countries have been aided in the past and to propose solutions with durable results.

Course Materials:  
The textbook that we will use for this course is the following:  


Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.
Assignments and Grading Rules

1. **4 two-page policy memos**: each student will be responsible for writing four two-page policy memos related to a substantive issue along with a series of questions that will be available at the end of a weekly topical issue. Policy memos will be due on Friday at 4 p.m. of each respective week.

2. **20-page research paper**: each student will write a paper based on a topic of each student’s choice that should be cleared with the professor, and is due on or before 2 March. The research paper should be related to an issue that is related to civil conflict and development and is due on or before 13 April, 4 p.m.

3. **Discussion forum/blog**: students will be expected to engage in weekly class discussions/blogs. The class forum will discuss topical issues and current events. Each forum will begin on Monday, 4 p.m. of each week, and will remain open until 11:59 p.m., Friday.

All students are expected to do all of the reading in advance and to take part in the discussions. Taking part in the course discussions is expected, and speaking or posting to course discussions only a few times over the duration of the semester does not count as full participatory credit. The quality of class sessions is greatly enhanced when students are prepared to engage the course material in a constructive fashion. Participation will be noted and credited to your grade.

Other Course Policies

*Instructor feedback*: I will comment on your forum posts in a timely fashion, typically within 24 hours during the week. Students can expect to have the policy memo assignments graded and returned with feedback in a one-week time frame. The semester paper will be graded and returned in a two-week time frame from the due date.

*Late work*: Late work will not be accepted.

*Participation*: Students are expected to be actively involved in learning in this class.

*Accommodation*: Students with disabilities should contact Disabilities Support Services for special accommodations.

*Academic Integrity*: Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to procedures outlined in the Whitehead School Academic Integrity Policy. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the course and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent permissible.

**Basis for Grade and Distribution**

- 4 policy memos .......................................... 40%
- Semester research paper/abstract ............ 35 / 5%
- Discussion forum/blog............................. 10%
- Participation/Attendance .................... 10%

* A = 94 - 100
* A- = 90 - 93
B+ = 87 - 89  
B = 84 - 86  
B- = 80 - 83  
C+ = 77 - 79  
C = 74 - 76  
C- = 70 - 73  
D+ = 67 - 69  
D = 64 - 66  
D- = 60 - 63  
F = 60 and below

*Note: Graduate students in Seton Hall’s School of Diplomacy should be aware that they need a minimum GPA of 3.0 to graduate.

**Academic and Professional Integrity**
All forms of dishonesty, whether by act or omission, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and knowingly furnishing false information, are prohibited. Work submitted in the course must be the product of each individual student. Contributions of others to the finished work must be appropriately cited and acknowledged. Any work not following these guidelines may be found to be plagiarism and may result in academic suspension, or being asked to leave the university. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and it is each student’s responsibility to abide by university guidelines. If students have any concerns or questions please see the instructor.

**Disability Services**
If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for accommodations, in academic classes, the residence halls, food services areas, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To receive accommodations or assistance, please self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67. The staff at DSS will help you to develop a plan for accommodations. For more information contact DSS at (973) 313-6003.

**Schedule of Assignments**

**Week One**  
**Introduction and Background**
Feb 2  


| Week Two | **Civil Wars and Economic Growth**  
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| Week Three | **Regional Impacts of Civil Wars**  
| **Policy Memo #1 - due** |
| Week Four | **Ending Civil Conflict?**  
| **Policy Memo #2 - due** |
| Week Five | **Structural Adjustment: Good or Bad?**  
March 2 | Del Castillo, *Rebuilding War-Torn States*, Ch. 5.  
Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*, Ch. 5 |


Semester Paper abstract and outline – due

March 9 – 14 Spring Break

Week Six  Changes in IFI Approaches
March 16  Del Castillo, Rebuilding War-Torn States, Ch. 6.


Policy Memo #3 - due

Week Seven  UN Approaches to Post-Conflict Reconstruction
March 23  Del Castillo, Rebuilding War-Torn States, Ch. 5 (review).


**Week Eight**
**Foreign Aid: Sequencing and Cyclicality as Problems**
March 30
Del Castillo, Rebuilding War-Torn States, Ch. 6.


**Week Nine**
**Foreign Aid: US Perspectives**
April 6


*Policy Memo #4 - due*

**Week Ten**
**Humanitarian Emergencies and Disaster Response**
April 13


