POLI 120N: Contention and Conflict in Africa

University of California San Diego
Fall Quarter 2011
MWF: 11-11.50am
CENTR 113

Course description
This course introduces students to the systematic analysis of conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. It has two goals: to provide a substantive introduction to the various forms of conflict the region encounters (civil war, electoral violence, riots, etc...); and to provide a theoretical and methodological overview of how to study conflict in Africa. The course is divided into two parts. During the first four weeks, students will learn the theories social scientists have developed to understand civil war — the primary form of conflict — in Africa. In the second part of the course, students will learn about other types of conflict in the region, and debate the extent to which our existing theories help us understand these alternative forms of conflict.

Course format
This course meets as a lecture three times a week for the ten weeks of the quarter. Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the readings for that day. Participation is encouraged. Lecture slides will be posted online on a weekly basis: all lecture slides for one week will be posted on the Friday of that week.

Course requirements
Students will be graded based on short quizzes (20%), one midterm (30%) and one final exam (50%):

- 5 quizzes (20%): I will assign 5 surprise quizzes throughout the quarter. These will test you on your knowledge of the readings for the day. These will be rather basic: if you are up-to-date on the readings, you should find these quizzes easy. I will keep the top 4 grades out of 5.
- 1 midterm (30%): The midterm will be held during class time on Monday, October 24, from 11 to 11.50am. This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. One part of the exam will be a map quiz, which will ask you to locate and identify all 48 sub-Saharan African countries and their capital.
- 1 final (50%): The final exam will be held on Tuesday, December 6, from 11.30am to 2.30pm. This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. It will include short-answer, identification, and essay questions.

Course policies
Make-up exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances, and not without proper written documentation justifying your absence (i.e, a doctor’s note). There will be no make-up exam option for the surprise quizzes.

Please consult http:// senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm for UCSD’s Academic Integrity Policy. Students in this course are expected to comply with this policy. Any student in violation of UCSD’s policy will automatically fail this class.
If you have a disability that requires special accommodations, please come see me as soon as possible and present your certification to me and to Ariane Parkes (aparkes@ucsd.edu).

If you seek a re-grade, you must email the TA within 72 hours of the exams being returned to the class and explain, in that email and in detail, why you believe you deserve reconsideration. Note that the TA then has the ability to review the entire exam, and the authority to increase your grade, decrease your grade, or keep the grade unchanged.

**Teaching Assistants**
Your teaching assistant is Nathan Combes. Consult him first with any questions relating to the course.

Nathan Combes
ncombes@ucsd.edu
O.H. Friday 8.30-10.30am
Office 332

**Readings**
All readings are available through UCSD’s e-reserves, accessible at:
http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=18112

The Douglas Johnson reading (Week 4) will be available on e-reserves (first part) and on the course website at ted.ucsd.edu (second part).
9/23 - Introduction

Week 1 — BACKGROUND

9/26 - The challenge of African leaders

Herbst, J. State and Power in Africa: Chapter 1

9/28 - The European imprint on Africa


9/30 - African independence


Week 2 — THEORIES OF VIOLENCE I

10/3 - Why focus on civil wars?


10/5 - Causes of civil war: ancient hatreds


10/7 - Causes of civil war: ancient hatreds cont’d

   Watch:

   Watch:
Week 3 — THEORIES OF VIOLENCE II

10/10 - Causes of civil war: economic causes and state capacity


10/12 - Causes of civil war: natural resources


10/14 - Causes of civil war: colonialism

Ellis, Stephen. “Africa’s Wars: The Historical Context”
Week 4 — CIVIL WAR CASES

10/17 - Sudan I

Berkeley, Bill. 2001. The Grave Are Not Yet Full: Chapter 5


10/19 - Sudan II (Darfur)


10/21 - Congo

Week 5 — GENOCIDE

10/24 - IN-CLASS MIDTERM

10/26 - Describing the genocide

Des Forges, Alison Liebhafsky. 1999. Leave None To Tell The Story, pp. 31-56, 144-175


10/28 - Explaining the genocide: Nathan Combes Guest Lecture


Week 6 — ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

10/31 - Cross-national analysis


11/02 - Experimental analysis


11/04 - Case study analysis

Week 7 — SECESSION

11/07 - Unrecognized lands: Somaliland, Casamance, Azawad


11/09 - Successful secessions: Eritrea, South Sudan


11/11 - Veteran’s Day, no class
Week 8 — CLIMATE CHANGE

11/14 - Warming and civil conflict


11/16 - Other consequences of climate change


11/18 - Guest lecture: Dr. Jennifer Burney
Week 9 — SONS OF SOIL

11/21 - Sons of soil, indigenes, autochtones


11/23 - Thanksgiving break

11/25 - Thanksgiving break
Week 10 — OTHER FORMS OF CONFLICT

11/28 - Terrorism


11/30 - Riots


12/02 - Film in class


FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6: 11.30am - 2.30pm