I. Types, agendas, and strategies
II. Causes and origins
III. Dynamics, processes, and tactics
IV. Ending political violence

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Listed readings. This syllabus provides both an extensive bibliography of recent articles (since January 2015) and a more selective bibliography of books and articles that have shown themselves to have enduring importance. The recent articles (since January 2015) include almost all articles published on civil conflict in the three most prominent journals in political science (American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, and Journal of Politics), the four most prominent journals in the sub-fields of international relations and comparative politics (International Security, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, and Comparative Political Studies), and the two most prominent journals of conflict studies (Journal of Peace Research and Journal of Conflict Resolution). Not all of the recent articles will withstand the test of time, but they provide a snapshot of the state of published research at this moment.

Participation. Each week we will select a few readings for discussion at the next meeting depending on the needs of the students enrolled in the seminar. Please come prepared to contribute to each week’s discussion of these selected readings.

Writing assignment. You should complete two literature reviews throughout the quarter. The first should survey the recent articles in week 3, 4, or 5 and the second should survey the recent articles in weeks 6-7 or 8-9. Write these to inform and share with your colleagues who might want to use these in preparing for comprehensive exams or planning future research.

TritonED Web-site. On the TritonED Web-site there is a copy of this syllabus, compilations of abstracts of the articles published since January 2015, and copies of the assigned articles.

Datasets. Widely used and cited datasets on political violence, state failures, terrorism, and civil wars include the following:

- Global Terrorism Database. http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd
- Uppsala Conflict Data Program. http://www.ucdp.uu.se
Also note the following recent announcements of new data sources:


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**Week 1. Introductory meeting**

Week 2. Types, agendas, and strategies of political violence

Articles since January 2015


Typologies


Studies of specific types of conflicts


**Strategies of insurgency and revolution**


**Commentaries and assessments of counterinsurgency**


Week 3. Causes/origins—Sociological and psychological explanations

Articles since January 2015


**The debate over ethnic violence**


Beliefs, ideologies, and cultures


Emotions


Week 4. Causes/origins—Economic explanations

Articles since January 2015


**Economic motivations**


Week 5. Causes/origins—Political explanations and tactical opportunities

**Articles since January 2015**


Opportunity


Political institutions/ regimes


International system and foreign actors


Weeks 6 and 7. Dynamics and processes

**Articles since January 2015**


**Processes**


**Organization and organizational maintenance**


Weeks 8 and 9. Tactics and their consequences

**Articles since January 2015**


**Rebel and government tactics and their effectiveness**


Week 10. Ending political violence

Articles since January 2015


**Outcomes**


**Peace arrangements**


