

## **PSC/IR 265: Civil War and International Systems**

William Spaniel

[williamspaniel@gmail.com](mailto:williamspaniel@gmail.com)

University of Rochester

Spring 2015

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:25-4:40

Meliora 203

Office Hours: Mondays, 12:00-2:00

Civil wars are now the most common form of armed combat in the world. However, as recent American forays in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya have illustrated, civil wars are rarely fought in isolation. Each side looks to foreign actors for military support or outright intervention. Meanwhile, international organizations like the United Nations mediate conflicts and initiate peacekeeping missions. As such, this course analyzes how the international system interacts with civil conflict.

## Course Materials

Blackboard is difficult to work with. Thus, I will post all course materials on my website: <http://williamspaniel.com/classes/pscir-265-2015/>. Most importantly, this includes links to required readings, PDFs of lecture slides, and recorded videos of lectures.

## Evaluation

Students will take two in-class midterms and submit two problem sets. The two midterms each comprise 25% of the final grade; the two problem sets each comprise 20% of the final grade. The remaining 10% will be added to the midterms or the problem sets, whichever each student scored higher on. After calculating that weighted average, a student's grade will be *no worse* than the following:

$94% < x$	A
$90 < x \leq 94%$	A-
$87% < x \leq 90%$	B+
$83% < x \leq 87%$	B
$80% < x \leq 83%$	B-
$77% < x \leq 80%$	C+
$73% < x \leq 77%$	C
$70% < x \leq 73%$	C-
$x \leq 70%$	Non-passing grades

## Late Work

Absent any university regulations that provide exceptions, no late work will be accepted under any circumstance. This is because I will go over the correct answers in class.

## Teaching Assistant

Justin Nicholson

[j.nicholson@rochester.edu](mailto:j.nicholson@rochester.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9 am to 11 am, Harkness 305

## Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. You and you alone are responsible for attending lectures and staying up-to-date.

## Readings and Schedule

The readings and schedule are subject to change, pending how fast we move through the material. Please see the website for links to the readings and an up-to-date schedule.

### Topic 1: Motivation (1/15)

No readings.

### Topic 2: Bargaining and War (1/20, 1/22)

James D. Fearon. "[Rationalist Explanations for War.](#)"

Problem set distributed on 1/20.

### Topic 3: Uncertainty (1/27, 1/29, 2/3)

Branislav L. Slantchev. "[The Principle of Convergence in Wartime Negotiations.](#)" Skip the math that appears on 622-626.

### Topic 4: Reputation (2/5)

Barbara F. Walter. "[Building Reputation: Why Governments Fight Some Separatists but Not Others.](#)"

Daniel Treisman. "[Rational Appeasement.](#)" Skip the math that appears on 351-362.

### Topic 5: Commitment (2/10)

Problem set due 2/10.

James D. Fearon. "[Commitment Problems and the Spread of Ethnic Conflict.](#)"

### Topic 6: Coordination (2/12, 2/17)

James D. Fearon. "[Why Do Some Civil Wars Last Longer than Others?](#)"

Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margret Roberts. "[How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression.](#)"

### Catch Up and Review Session (2/19)

### Midterm 1 (2/24)

### Topic 7: Mechanism Design (2/26, 3/3)

Mark Fey and Kris Ramsay. "[Uncertainty and Incentives in Crisis Bargaining: Game-Free Analysis of International Conflict.](#)"

Phil Arena and Anna O. Pechenkina. "[External Subsidies and Lasting Peace.](#)"

Problem Set #2 assigned 2/26.

**Topic 8: Mediation (3/5)**

Mark Fey and Kris Ramsay. "[When Is Shuttle Diplomacy Worth the Commute? Information Sharing through Mediation.](#)"

Spring break 3/10 and 3/12. No class.

**Topic 9: Intervention (3/17, 3/19)**

Barbara F. Walter. "[The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement.](#)"

Douglas A. Ollivant. "[Countering the New Orthodoxy: Reinterpreting Counterinsurgency in Iraq.](#)"

James D. Fearon. "[Obstacles to Ending Syria's Civil War.](#)"

**Topic 10: Issues with Intervention (3/24, 3/26)**

Paul Poast. "[Lincoln's Gamble: Bargaining Failure, British Recognition, and the Start of American Civil War.](#)"

Robert Luttwak. "[Give War a Chance.](#)"

Problem Set #2 due 3/26.

**Topic 11: The Conflict Trap (3/31)**

Paul Collier et al. [Breaking the Conflict Trap](#). Overview and Chapter 1.

**Topic 12: Economic Coercion (4/2)**

Robert A. Pape. "[Why Economic Sanctions Do Not Work.](#)"

Daniel W. Drezner. "[The Hidden Hand of Economic Coercion.](#)"

**Topic 13: United Nations Intervention (4/7)**

Erik Voeten. "[Outside Options and the Logic of Security Council Action.](#)"

**Topic 14: Coups and the Cold War (4/9)**

Nikolay Marinov and Hein Goemans. "[Coups and Democracy.](#)"

**Topic 15: Terrorism (4/14)**

Robert Pape. "[The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.](#)"

Scott Ashworth et al. "[Design, Inference, and the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.](#)"

No class 4/16.

**Topic 14: Insurgency (4/21)**

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin. "[Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.](#)"

**Catch Up and Review Session (4/23)**

**Midterm 2 (4/28)**