POL 375:
Terrorism, Revolution, and War

Spring Semester
Instructor: Alia K. Nardini
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Prerequisite: None

Course Description:
In the contemporary world, traditional wars between great military powers have been replaced by armed intervention on the basis of humanitarian concerns, ethnic conflicts within national borders, struggles for independence and political freedom, cross-border revolutions and controversial acts of terrorism. More and more often, the international community is torn between the commitment to build a lasting peace, and the need to legitimize the resort to force. This course aims at providing a critical perspective on various theories of conflict, questioning why political violence breaks out, how it may be justified, and what implications it might carry for both governments and international organizations.

During the semester, we shall examine the most important forms of conflict, both on a national and on an international scale (war, terrorism, ethnic conflict, revolutions), as well as the political and moral dilemmas they involve, and the threats they pose to communities and to global security. In looking at why political entities resort to force, we shall compare and contrast different approaches: realism, liberalism, neoconservatism and just war theory, applying them to various case studies (for instance, the Rwandan genocide, the Ugandan war, intervention in Libya and – potentially – in Syria). In the case of terrorism, we shall conduct an in-depth analysis of study cases in Germany, Spain, the US and Italy, using live testimonies, manifests, on-site visits (as in the case of the Ustica massacre), and various other media devices.

Course Objectives:
At the end of the course, students will be able to:
1. comprehend the distinction between different types of political violence;
2. enumerate and analyze factors contributing to the escalation of violence in the contemporary world;
3. comprehend the dilemmas which both countries and international organizations must confront, when considering intervention to address political violence in their own country and/or abroad;
4. understand the political and moral justifications for resorting to force in war (or near-war) scenarios;
5. master the concepts and terminology of international relations with reference to conflict studies.

Required Course Material:
All reading material will be available in electronic format via Googledrive.
Details and guidance will be provided during our first meeting on Wednesday 21 January.

Spring Hill College Italy Center Attendance Policy
Attendance at all classes is required of all students. You are expected to arrive at class on time, having completed the week’s course readings and assignments.
You are allowed two unexcused absences before being penalized. In the event you miss more than two classes, you will automatically be marked down one letter grade. You can be excused for your absence by obtaining a note from the Spring Hill medical Doctor (Stephen Williams, M.D.) or from Dr. Todd Waller. Simply informing me that you are going to miss a lecture will not constitute an excused absence. Excuses related to travel delays will not be accepted, so you should not attempt to make travel plans that may conflict with course meetings, on site visits, and exams.

Evaluation:
The points and letter grades for the course will be structured as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>assignment</th>
<th>points to be earned</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>final grade awarded</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester test</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final test</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>from +5 to -5</td>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation (optional)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>No reading completed</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>76-74</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>73-70</td>
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Reading:
All the reading is required (i.e. mandatory). Though I cover the main concepts of the lectures in class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you read texts thoroughly and ask questions if anything is unclear. I will lecture assuming that you have both read and understood the reading assigned. I can excuse you twice for coming to class without having done your reading. If you experience any difficulties with reading-memorizing-retaining information, or if you are simply unable to access texts, do not hesitate to contact me.

At the beginning of our lectures, I will ask random questions to make sure you have all read and understood the basics of your set reading for that day. Failing to answer all my questions will result in 3 points being deducted from your total score. With this in mind, it is particularly important that you inform me of any problems with the reading before the beginning of class.

Participation:
When preparing for class, read and think carefully about the material under discussion. You will be graded for displaying thoughtfulness, accuracy and analysis, as well as an overall grasp of the concepts involved and the ability to apply those concepts well. In order to receive a high score for participation, it is also expected that you contribute to almost every discussion with thoughtful questions and original comments that demonstrate an engagement with the readings, the presentations, and your classmates.

Quizzes and other assignments:
- There will be two tests during the semester, covering all the material in the readings as well as my lectures and class discussions up to that point. Your detailed class notes, combined with the required readings, will make sure that you are fully prepared for tests. Each test will consist of open-answer questions, as well as true-or-false statements and fill-in-the-blanks. You will have 45 minutes to complete each test. A total of 20 points can be earned in each test. I am happy to look at your revision guides prior to tests, and let you know if you are missing out on any topic which I consider central to our course.

- There might also be unannounced quizzes, which will cover the assigned readings for the day. These quizzes are intended to ensure your due diligence in keeping up with the assignments. You earn 1 point with each correct answer; 1 point will be deducted for each incorrect answer. In total, up to 5 points can be earned or lost in each quiz.

- During the semester, you will have the chance to give a short presentation on your final paper topic or on another issue related to the course schedule. Presentations are optional and must be agreed with me on a one to one basis. A total of 5 extra points can be earned in a presentation.

Final Paper:
For your final paper, you are required to write a 3000 to 3500 words essay (approximately 12 pages – use word count tool or equivalent). Final papers must be handed in both in print and via email by noon, April 20th, with your word count clearly written on the first page.

You must choose a topic among those in (or related to) our course syllabus. Topics need to be discussed in advance with me on an individual basis. You are required to email me with a provisional title and an essay plan (consisting of a rough table of contents, and two-three explanatory sentences) by March 25th. Failure to propose a topic will result in a title being assigned by default.

I shall be happy to look at your essay plan and provide you with some comments and observations. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity, you must submit a table of contents/plan no later than April 7th.

Referencing:
Four refereed journal articles and two primary sources are the minimum appropriate academic standard. Internet sources, youtube videos and online short articles may be included in your bibliography, but they do not constitute an adequate replacement for the requirements outlined above. You may, however, substitute a journal article or primary source with its equivalent online copy (googlebooks/kindle for books, JSTOR for periodicals, etc), although the original publication still needs to be quoted in full. More specific guidance/information will be supplied later in the semester.

Academic dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty/impropriety on examinations, papers and any other assignments will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Please read the appropriate pages in the Student Handbook (to be found in Dr. Waller’s office).

I am going to run parts of your paper through various research browsers, so make sure you pay the utmost attention to how you handle whatever information you take from the web. Quote all your sources.

Course Miscellanea:
- If you happen to miss any of the lectures, it is your responsibility to catch up with the rest of the class and obtain/photocopy all the relevant information.
- All assignments must be completed to pass this course. Examinations missed by reason of absence must be made up at the convenience of the professor. A missing assignment will result in an ‘F’ for the course.
- All assignments (optional or mandatory: handouts, drafts, study guides, final papers) must be printed and stapled. I will not accept assignments via e-mail unless otherwise agreed.
- Any assignment, optional or mandatory, turned in after its deadline will be considered late. Late papers will receive a letter grade reduction for each day that they are late (including weekend days).

Changes:
During the course, the syllabus might be slightly changed according to the seminars’ developments. Any change will be communicated promptly. You are expected to check your e-mail daily to keep abreast of all important changes related to the course schedule. Please answer emails sent to you individually by the professor.
**POL 375 - Course Schedule and Readings**

**WEEK ONE**

**Class 1**

**Theories of Conflict**

Introduction to the course;


**Class 2**

**Thucydides**


**WEEK TWO**

**Class 3**

**Just War Theory I: Just Resort to Armed Force**


**Class 4**

No lecture – Art History and Literature Trip to Florence

**WEEK THREE**

**Class 5**

**Syria: the question of regime change**


**Class 6**

No lecture – Faculty Retreat at Villa San Giuseppe

**WEEK FOUR**

**Class 7**

**Just War Theory II: The Killing Of the Innocents**


Jeffrie G. Murphy, «The Killing of the Innocent», in *The Monist*, Vol. 57, No. 4, 1973 (extract);
Terrorism, Revolution and War 2015 Syllabus – Course Schedule and Readings


Class 8
Child Soldiers, (im)morality and self-defense

WEEK FIVE

Class 9
Humanitarian Intervention and the limits of peacekeeping: the Rwandan genocide

Class 10
Responsibility to Protect: Libya
Simon Chesterman, «'Leading from Behind': The Responsibility to Protect, the Obama Doctrine, and Humanitarian Intervention After Libya», Public Law&Legal Theory Research Paper Series, New York University, working paper 11-35, June 2011;

WEEK SIX

Class 11
MID-SEMESTER TEST
ALL READING week 1 – week 5

Class 12
War and Medias: the case of Kony 2012

WEEK SEVEN

Class 13
Revolutions

**Class 14**
The Arab Spring: new revolution or civil resistance?

**WEEK EIGHT**

**Class 15**
UAVs : New Technologies, Old Questions

**Class 16**
No lecture – Italy Center Spring Trip/Travel Weekend

**WEEK NINE**

**Class 17**
The Concept of Terrorism

**Class 18**
ISIS, Al-Qaeda and the War on Terror(ism)

**WEEK TEN**

**Class 19**
Italian political violence, past and present: Red Brigades and NO TAV
Cristina Bangau, «We Are All Black Block! The NO-TAV Movement and Geographies of Intervention», *Central European University*, 2013, pp. 1-4 and 25-30.

**DEADLINE FOR AGREEING ON FINAL PAPER TOPICS**
Class 20

No lecture – Italy Center Trip/Travel Weekend

**OPTIONAL FINAL PAPER TABLE OF CONTENTS TO BE SUBMITTED OVER THE EASTER BREAK**

**WEEK ELEVEN**

Class 21

**Spanish Terrorism: ETA**

David J. Whittaker, «Spain», in *The Terrorism Reader*, pp. 150-154;

Assia Alexieva «Targeting the Roots and Goals of ETA: A Counter-Terrorist Strategy to Consider?», in *Journal of International Political Sociology*, vol. 5, Spring 2006;


Class 22 **LECTURE 1:30 – 3:15 (single lecture HIS 322+POL 375)**

**German Terrorism: Red Army Faction**

David J. Whittaker, «Germany», in *The Terrorism Reader*, pp. 196-207;

Vision of the movie *The Baader Meinhof Complex*.

This reading will be included in the final test

Class 23 **OPTIONAL**

**Political violence in Bologna – on site (with ITA 102)**

Visit to the Museum for the Memory of Ustica

27 June 1980: airliner shootdown or terrorist bombing?

**WEEK TWELVE**

Class 24

**FINAL TEST**

All reading week 7 – week 11

Class 25

**Joint lecture with SSC 250: politics and human rights in preparation for Spring Social Justice Tour**

**WEEK THIRTEEN**

Final paper due: TBD