Politics 160C: Security, Conflict, Violence, War
Summer 2018 – Session 1 (June 25–July 27) [Meeting Hours and Location TBD]
Instructor: Michael Wilson Becerril, miswilso@ucsc.edu
Office Hours: [TBD]

Course Description

Ask yourself: What is violence and how do we learn to think of it? What is war and why is it started? How can it be avoided? Is violence ever justified? How do we know when we are safe, or what insecurity is? What is conflict? Is it “natural” or “biological”? How can conflicts be transformed or resolved, and for whom? How do different actors—local to international—define and “make” peace? Is peace the absence of war, or is it the presence of justice and sustainability? How do we build and preserve it? What are the roots of terrorism and political violence, and what are the effective ways of countering it? What is the “war on terror,” and does it conform to traditional views of war? How does media treat war or violence? How does war end? What are the links between war and everyday practices? How do violence, war, and insecurity variously shape our collective and individual subjectivities, even in so-called “times of peace”?

This course centers on these open questions to develop a framework that will help us make sense of, and critically engage with, issues of conflict and peace. Studying this also allows us to ask the broader question, “what is politics?” There is no politically neutral way to think of violence. All violence is political (even in how we define it), and politics is marked by conflict, but are all politics violent? Finding diverse explanations for violence, from across different contexts, will demonstrate how views about war—and about particular wars—are closely associated with distinct politics and worldviews.

Learning Objectives

The course is designed to ensure students meet the following central goals:

• Gain a solid understanding of violence and the challenges of preventing it historically and contemporarily. Students will emerge from the course able to accurately describe the import of key developments and cases—from across the globe—that have shaped global society and its knowledges of conflict and peace. Students will develop a complex view of the heterogeneous features (histories, institutions, societies, cultures, economies, etc.) that contextualize violence.

• Develop the conceptual tools and theoretical knowledge to better understand violence as a political, structural, everyday, material, and symbolic phenomenon at the international, domestic, and interpersonal levels. We will acquire a solid grasp of various theorized links between violence and phenomena such as states, terrorism, authoritarianism, capitalism, democracy, feminism, antiviolence, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustainability.

• Improve your writing and the accompanying faculties it requires, such as thinking critically, analyzing methodically, and arguing persuasively. Quality writing is, professionally and politically, one of the most valuable skills you should develop. We will cultivate our capability to make oral and written arguments that are succinct, well organized, supported with evidence, vivid, and compelling. This will serve you far beyond our class, regardless of your career path.
Student Rights and Responsibilities

Attendance, Late Submissions, and Electronic Devices Etiquette
Attendance is mandatory, and it consists of careful preparation, active listening, and class participation. Because we only have 10 lectures, your absence from one means that you have missed 10% of the course, and your grade will reflect that: each unexcused absence will drop your maximum grade by 10%. Arriving late will also hurt your participation grade, so please plan accordingly and always arrive on time. Grades for any work submitted after its deadline will drop by one letter for each day that it is late. Finally, you are required to keep hand-written notes, and no electronic devices are allowed in class.

Learning Support, Counseling, Sexual Violence Prevention, and Financial Assistance
UCSC offers free learning support (ucsc.edu/lss), violence and harassment prevention (care.ucsc.edu), emergency financial assistance (deanofstudents.ucsc.edu.slug-support/program), and confidential counseling (caps.ucsc.edu). Avail yourself of these resources for consultation, support, and advice.

Accessibility and Accommodations
Students who qualify for disability accommodations should register with the (confidential and free) campus Disability Resource Center and submit their Accommodation Authorization Letter to the instructor in person, at office hours of via appointment, by the end of the second week of the quarter. Please contact the DRC for more information via phone (831-459-2089) or email (drc@ucsc.edu).

Academic Integrity
All students enrolled at UCSC are expected to read and abide by the student code of ethics. I encourage you to review especially the policies on issues like academic honesty and misconduct (available here: http://deanofstudents.ucsc.edu/pdf/santa-cruz-campus-code-of-student-conduct.pdf). Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and not worth the risk. Your work for this course must be original, i.e., your own and not previously created or submitted for different courses. You may (and should) borrow ideas, as long as you follow proper attribution. Please feel free to ask me about these expectations.

Citation Styles
Proper attribution of all borrowed ideas and information, in a consistent style, is crucial to academic honesty. The Politics department accepts either of two formats: MLA in-text citation or Chicago Style footnote citations. Please familiarize yourself with these two style guides, which can be found on the Politics department website (politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/citation.html).

Course Materials
Except as noted, all course readings will be made available via the UCSC Canvas interface.

Grading System
We will use this rubric to evaluate your progress in the course. Please familiarize yourself with it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = 90-100</td>
<td>Reserved for original, flawless, and above-the-mark work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = 80-89</td>
<td>Good-to-great work, despite minor flaws or errors</td>
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<tr>
<td>C = 70-79</td>
<td>Satisfactory but significantly flawed work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D = 60-69</td>
<td>Demonstrates dismal effort and contains too many errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F = 0-59</td>
<td>Incomplete, plagiarized, or no work submitted</td>
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Requirements and Grade Distribution

Participation (20%)
Students must attend all meetings and are expected to be active participants in our discussions. This course relies on our collective learning, so you must be attentive and prepared to contribute to our conversations. It is therefore mandatory to complete all assigned readings by their respective dates, and to attend meetings ready to discuss them at length (see the detailed week-by-week schedule below).

Weekly Quizzes (4% each, 20% total)
We will start our second meeting of each week with a short quiz, beginning on the first week of class. These brief exercises are not difficult, but they are designed to ensure and promote your reading comprehension. You will not succeed in these by relying only on lecture notes, so you must do the readings. If you stay up to date with the readings, these quizzes will be a walk in the park.

Research Project (30% total)
You will prepare a research essay in stages, with guidance from the instructor and your TA/reader.
- Précis and annotated bibliography (due in class on Tuesday of week 3).
- First draft of the paper (due in class on Thursday of week 4).
- Final essay (due for upload to Canvas at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of classes).

Final Exam (30%)
The final exam will be cumulative, will require you to think across themes and cases, and will ensure that you have gained a strong grasp of the material covered in class.

Additional Resources

You are expected to keep up with current events, and I encourage you to bring these up during our class discussions or to my attention via email. Please explore the following sources at least once at the outset, and subsequently use them to stay up to date about issues of war and peace during, and after, our course.


Critical and In-Depth Coverage: Peace Studies Journal; Peace, Conflict, and Development; Journal of Peace and Conflict Resolution; International Security; “Political Violence @ a Glance”; “Duck of Minerva”; etc.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: Articulating and Enacting Violence

Meeting 1 (June 26): Course Introduction; Mediated Violence and the “Insecurity Dilemma”

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:
- Christine Sylvester. 2013. War as Experience. London: Routledge. (Especially Ch. 3 and 4.)

Meeting 2 (June 28): Explaining War, Conflict, and Violence: Concepts and Methodologies

Required Readings:
- Margaret Mead. 1940. “Warfare is Only an Invention – Not a Biological Necessity.”

Recommended Readings:
- Thucydides. The Peloponnesian War. (Any edition.)
Week 2: What is Insecurity? Structural, Epistemic, and Everyday Violence

Meeting 3 (July 3): Colonialism and Intersectionality
Required Readings:
• Laura Sjoberg. 2013. Gendering Global Conflict: Toward a Feminist Theory of War. Columbia University Press. (Ch. 5 and 9, pp. 133-156 and 248-278.)

Recommended Readings:
• Frantz Fanon. 1963. The Wretched of the Earth. Paris: Présence Africaine. (Especially Ch. 5.)

Meeting 4 (July 5): Poverty, Hunger, and Ecocide
Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:
Week 3: National Security Doctrine, Cultural Militarism, and “Just War”

Meeting 5 (July 10): National Security Doctrine and Militarized Masculinism

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:

- Laura Sjoberg. 2013. Gendering Global Conflict. Columbia UP. (Ch. 6, pp. 157-184.)
- Chris Hedges. War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning. PublicAffairs. (pp. 19-42 and 83-121.)

Meeting 6 (July 12): Law of War and “Just War” Theory

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:

Week 4: Violent Protest, Terrorism, and Insurgency

Meeting 7 (July 17): What Makes Protest Violent? What Defines a Terrorist?

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Meeting 8 (July 19): Insurgency, Guerrilla Warfare, and Internal Armed Conflict

Required Readings:
- María José Moyano. Argentina’s Lost Patrol. New Haven: Yale University Press. (pp. 50-99.)

Recommended Readings:
- Cynthia Arnson. 2012. In the Wake of War: Democratization and Internal Armed Conflict in Latin America. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (See especially Ch. 1, 8, and 11.)
Week 5: Transforming Conflict, Resisting War, and Advancing Peace

Meeting 9 (July 24): Conflict Resolution, Reconciliation, and Transformation

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Meeting 10 (July 26): Radical Nonviolence and Antiviolence

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings: