Civil Wars and Peace Settlements in Africa
INRL 581 01 (23105) / AFST581

Séverine Autesserre Graduate seminar, Spring 2007
severine.autesserre@yale.edu Wednesday, 3:30 - 5:20 p.m.
Office 345, MacMillan Center, Luce Hall Street Hall 261
Office Hours: Thursday, 2-4 p.m. Yale University

Substance of the Course

Why does violent conflict persist in post-independence Africa? Why do nearly half of the countries that emerge from war lapse back into violence after five years? Why do most international interventions fail to bring peace to affected populations? This research seminar focuses on recent conflict and post-conflict situations in Africa as background against which to understand the distinct dynamics of violence and peace settlement in civil wars. Throughout the course, the students will acquire a broad understanding of the concepts, theoretical traditions, and debates in the study of civil war and peace implementation. The course will also introduce students to new issues in the field, such as the micro-foundations of peace settlements and the challenges of international interventions. Finally, by the end of the semester, the students should have an in-depth understanding of specific cases, notably the D.R. Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Grading and Requirements

1) Readings: Assignments are on the attached list.
   The books by Kaplan; Mamdani; Reno; Weinstein; Collier and Sambanis; Strauss; Doyle and Sambanis; and Stedman, Rothshild and Cousens are available at the Yale Bookstore. The books by Kaplan; Mamdani; Reno; Nest; Power; Doyle and Sambanis; and Stedman, Rothshild and Cousens are on reserve at the Cross Campus Library, under course number INRL 581 01 (23105). The books by Weinstein; Collier and Sambanis; and Strauss should be on reserve ASAP.

2) Class participation (10% of the final grade). The class participation grade will be based on 1- participation in the discussion during each session; 2- the oral presentation and discussion during week 13 (see last page of this syllabus).

3) Four reviews of the readings, maximum two pages single-spaced (30% of the final grade). The reviews should briefly summarize the argument, critically assess it, and raise questions for class discussion. They should be posted on the class website by 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

4) A research paper (60% of the final grade), about 15-20 pages double space. Ancillary material due throughout the term: paper topic due on week 3; paper bibliography due on week 6, paper outline due on week 9, optional first draft due on week 12, final paper due on Monday, May 7 by 4 p.m.
Week 1 – Introduction

PART 1: EXPLAINING VIOLENCE IN AFRICAN CIVIL WARS

Week 2 - Can we understand violence? The barbarism debate


Kalyvas, Stathis N. “‘New’ and ‘Old’ Civil Wars, a Valid Distinction?” *World Politics*, 54, October 2001. (http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/world_politics/v054/54.1kalyvas.pdf)

Recommended


Week 3 – The role of the state: colonialism and state failure


Recommended


Week 4 – Insurgencies


Guest Speaker: Julie Linden, Librarian for Political Science and International Affairs. Presentation: How to find good bibliographic resources on civil wars and peace settlements in Africa.

Recommended


Week 5 - Economic causes of violence

Collier, Paul; Sambanis, Nicholas (eds). Understanding Civil Wars: Evidence and Analysis: Vol 1 - Africa. Washington: The World Bank, 2005. [Chapter 1 and 10, plus four of the eight case-study chapters]

Recommended


**Week 6 – Identity and Violence**


**Recommended**


**Week 7 – Micro-dynamics of violence: local agendas and private motivations**


**Recommended**


**PART II – FROM WAR TO PEACE**

**Week 8 – Determinants of third party interventions in African civil wars**


**Recommended**


**Week 9 – Peacekeeping & Peace Implementation**


**Recommended**


**Week 10 - Post-conflict reconstruction I: State building**


*Guest Speaker: Mike McGovern. Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Yale University. Presentation on “Rebuilding Failed States.”*

**Recommended**


Tull, Denis M. “A reconfiguration of political order? The state of the state in North Kivu (DR Congo).” *African Affairs* 102: 429-446. 2003 ([http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/102/408/429](http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/102/408/429))
Week 11 – Post-conflict reconstruction II: peace building

Branch, Adam and Mampilly, Zachariah Cherian. “Winning the war, but losing the peace? The dilemma of SPLM/A civil administration and the tasks ahead” Journal of Modern African Studies, 43-1, 2005. (http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FMOA%2FMOA43_01%2FS0022278X04000588a.pdf&code=45adb1bc41801924ead73b8e039e5e6c)


Recommended


Week 12 - Challenges of peace implementation


Recommended


**Week 13 – Conclusion & brainstorming on students’ research papers**

Each student will post his / her draft paper (or paper abstract) on the class website by Monday, 4 p.m.

Each student will be responsible for preparing a constructive criticism of one of his colleagues’ papers, and present his/her feedback orally during the class.

We will devote about 10 minutes to each student’s paper. Each student will do a 3-5 minutes presentation of his / her research paper (topic, puzzle, main argument), which will be followed by a 3-5 minute presentation by a discussant and (provided there is enough time) by suggestions from the other students.