Political Science 4700. Conflict and Peace Building in Africa  
Spring 2009  
Tuesday & Thursday, 2pm-3:20pm.  
Wooten Hall 314

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Office hours: Tuesday 9:30am-12pm or by appointment

This course will cover civil wars and conflict resolution in Africa, with an emphasis on contemporary cases. We will begin by examining theoretical explanations for the onset, duration, and termination of civil war. Then, we will examine several African cases in the post-colonial period. We will conclude by examining theories of long-term peace building and political reform.

Reading Materials:


4. Other readings will be posted on Blackboard/Web CT (http://ecampus.unt.edu/), these are marked “WEB” below. Note that the course website will ONLY be used for posting supplemental readings. I will not be communicating with students this way. You can also find many of these readings through scholar.google.com or www.jstor.com.


Students will be expected to keep up with the readings as listed in the class schedule. You should have read and be prepared to discuss the assigned material for that day.

Grading:
*Midterm and Final Exams* (30% of grade, EACH). There will be a midterm and a final exam. Both will be taken in class and are non-cumulative. These exams will require you to write short essays on selected questions. Study guides will be distributed a week before these exams to help you prepare; I highly encourage you to form study groups with your classmates. You must bring your own bluebooks.

   Midterm exam, March 5 (30%)
   Final exam, May 12 (30%)

*Research paper* (40% of grade). You must write a research paper on an African conflict of your choice, detailing the causes of the conflict, how it was fought, and how it was resolved (or is likely to be resolved). For this paper, you will be required to read several books and articles on your chosen conflict.
Your paper will be approximately 3,000-4,000 words (about 10-12 pages, double-spaced). Detailed instructions on how to write these papers will be distributed in class. Papers are due on May 5.

*It is very unlikely that I will change a grade unless there was a blatant error. If you did poorly on an assignment, I would be happy to discuss ways you can improve next time.

1. COURSE OVERVIEW, DEFINING THE PROBLEM (Jan 20)
   - Herbst, Jeffrey. 1996. Responding to State Failure in Africa. (WEB)
   - Collier et al, Overview

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Jan 27).

3. CAUSES OF CONFLICT (Feb 3)
   - Collier et al, Chapter 3.
   - Boas and Dunn, Chapter 2.

4. EFFECTS OF CONFLICT (Feb 10)
   - Video: “Invisible Children”
   - Collier et al, Chs 1&2
   - Boas and Dunn, Chapter 8, Uganda.

5. CONFLICT RESOLUTION (Feb 17)
   - Collier et al., Ch 5.
   - Walter, Barbara. 1999. Designing Transitions from Civil War: Demobilization, Democratization and Commitments to Peace. (WEB)

6. SETTLER CONFLICTS—ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICA (Feb 24)
   - Hendrix, Cullen and Idean Salehyan. “Zimbabwe” (WEB)
   - Nelson Mandela, “I am prepared to Die.” (WEB)

7. COLD WAR CONFLICTS—MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA (March 03)
   - Boas and Dunn, Chapter 11, Angola
   - J. Michael Quinn, “Mozambique” (WEB)

   --Midterm Exam Thursday March 5--

8. FAILED INTERVENTION IN SOMALIA. RWANDAN GENOCIDE: (March 10)
• Begin Gourevitch book.

--SPRING BREAK: CONTINUE READING GOUREVITCH—

9. RWANDA and the D.R. CONGO (March 24)
   • Boas and Dunn, Chapter 7, DR Congo
   • Finish Gourevitch

10: WEST AFRICAN CONFLICTS (March 31)
   • Boas and Dunn, Chapter 5, Liberia
   • Chege, Michael. 2002. Sierra Leone: the State the Came Back From the Dead (WEB)

11. SUDAN’S WARS (April 7)
   • Boas and Dunn, Chapter 9, Sudan

12. FINDING SOLUTIONS, ENDING WAR (April 14).

13. SOLUTIONS, cont (April 14)
   • Sachs, Jeffrey. “The Development Challenge” (WEB)

14. SOLUTIONS, cont (April 28).
   • Van de Walle, Nicolas. 2002. Africa’s Range of Regimes. (WEB)

15. CONCLUSION AND REVIEW
   --Papers due Tuesday, May 5--

FINAL EXAM -- May 12, 1:30pm