

Scholarly Debates in War Studies

Theme Title		
Civil Wars and Military Intervention		
No of credits (ECTS): 7,5	Course dates: 2025	
Course director: Kersti Larsdotter	Examiner: Kersti Larsdotter	
The course was reviewed by the Research Committee in War Studies:		2024-09-02
The course was approved by the Director of Studies		2024-09-11

Theme Description
<p>This course will introduce the doctoral students to the classics as well as cutting edge scholarly work on civil wars and military interventions, and to the task of carrying out research on internal conflicts. We will study the origins, dynamics, and termination of civil wars and rebel organisation as well as various forms of international interventions. It aims to provide a theoretical and empirical foundation for understanding these forms of conflict, the logic of their violence, and the determinants of their outcomes. A variety of research approaches will be explored, including qualitative, quantitative and interpretive method, micro- and macro level of analysis, and sub- and cross-national comparative designs.</p>
Learning Outcomes
<p>By the end of the course, the doctoral student should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- systematically describe and evaluate the research in the subfield of the research group, with particular focus on the research with the greatest relevance for the own thesis topic- identify, contrast and problematise the scholarly debates in the subfield of the research group- engage critically with the state-of-the-art research in the subfield of the research group- identify the contributions of the student's own research to the subfield of the research group- clearly communicate, both orally and in writing, the content, arguments and conclusions in the course literature and independent analysis
Assessment
<p>The course is examined through active participation in six research group seminars and a written assignment of between 5000-7000 words, in which the doctoral student critically discusses and problematises the debates of the subfield as well as their own contribution to the field. The written assignment should also be presented at the research group seminar.</p>

Readings

Total number of pages: Ca 2700 pages

Civil Wars: Concepts and Data (109 pages)

Sambanis, Nicholas, 2004, 'What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition', *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 48(6): 814-858. 45 pages.

Cederman, Lars-Erik & Manuel Vogt, 2017, 'Dynamics and Logics of Civil War', *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 61(9): 1992-2016. 25 pages.

Walter, Barbara F., 'The New New Civil Wars', *Annual Review of Political Science*, 20(1): 469-486. 18 pages.

Shawn Davies et al, 2024, 'Organized Violence 1989-2023, and the Prevalence of Organized Crime Groups', *Journal of Peace Research*, 61(4): 673-693. 21 pages

Civil War Dynamics (678 pages)

Biddle, Stephen, 2022, *Nonstate Warfare: The Military Methods of Guerillas, Warlords and Militias* (Princeton University Press). 313 pages.

Kalyvas, Stathis, 2006, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War* (Cambridge University Press). Ca 350 pages.

Kalyvas and Balcells 2010, 'International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict', *American Political Science Review*, 104(3): 415-429. 15 pages.

Insurgent Group Dynamics (763 pages)

Arjona, Ana, 2014, 'Wartime Institutions: A Research Agenda', *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 58(8): 1360-1389. 30 pages.

Christa, Fotini, 2012, *Alliance Formation in Civil Wars* (Cambridge University Press). 245 pages.

Gruber, Barbara & Jan Pospisil, 2015, "'Ser Eleno": Insurgent Identity Formation in the ELN', *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 26(2): 226-247. 22 pages.

Staniland, Paul, 2014, *Networks of Rebellion: Explaining Insurgent Cohesion and Collapse* (Cornell University Press). 231 pages.

Stewart, Megan A, 2018, 'Civil War as State-Making: Strategic Governance in Civil War', *International Organization*, 72(1): 205-226. 26 pages.

Wood, Reed, 2019, *Female Fighters: Why Rebel Groups Recruit Women for War* (Columbia University Press). 209 pages.

Military Interventions: Concepts and Data (73 pages)

Paris, Roland, 2014, 'The "Responsibility to Protect" and the Structural Problems of Preventive Humanitarian Intervention', *International Peacekeeping*, 21(3): 569-603. 36 pages.

Regan, Patrick M, 2002, 'Third-Party Interventions and the Duration of Intrastate Conflicts', *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 46(1): 55-73. 19 pages.

Walter, Barbara F., Lise Morje Howard and V. Page Fortna, 2021, 'The Extraordinary Relationship between Peacekeeping and Peace', *British Journal of Political Science*, 51: 1705-1722. 18 pages.

Counterinsurgency Dynamics (496 pages)

Elias, Barbara, 2022, *Why Allies Rebel: Defiant Local Partners in Counterinsurgency Wars* (Cambridge University Press). 271 pages.

Hazelton, Jacqueline, 2021, *Bullets not Ballots: Success in Counterinsurgency Warfare* (Cornell University Press). 154 pages.

Huff, Connor, 2024, 'Counterinsurgency Tactics, Rebel Grievances, and Who Keeps Fighting', *American Political Science Review*, 118(1): 475-480. 6 pages.

Johnston, Patrick B., 2012, 'Does Decapitation Work? Assessing the Effectiveness of Leadership Targeting in Counterinsurgency Campaigns', *International Security*, 36(4): 47-79. 34 pages.

Terpstra, Niels, 2020, 'Rebel Governance, Rebel Legitimacy, and External Intervention: Assessing Three Phases of Taliban Rule in Afghanistan', *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 31(6): 1143-1173. 31 pages.

Peace Operations (488 pages)

Autesserre, Séverine, 2014, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention* (Cambridge University Press). 288 pages.

Howard, Lise Morje, 2019, *Power in Peacekeeping* (Cambridge University Press). 200 pages.

Multilateral Cooperation (139 pages)

Henke, Marina E, 2019, *Constructing Allied Cooperation: Diplomacy, Payments, and Power in Multilateral Military Coalitions* (Cornell University Press). 139 pages.