CPO 4721 Politics of Ethnic Conflict
Spring 2018 Section 178F
Credits: 3; Prereq: CPO 2001

Tuesday 10:40 am – 11:30 am, Anderson 34
Thursday 10:40 am – 12:35 pm, Anderson 101

Updated: 5 February 2018

Instructors

Dr. Olivier J. Walther, Center for African Studies, 425 Grinter Hall, +1 (352) 273-4739, owalther@ufl.edu. Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9-10:30 am, or by appointment.

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Overview

Politics of Ethnic Conflict will introduce you to the systemic study of ethnic violence, to the major concepts in conflict studies, and to major episodes of ethnic violence around the world, with a particular focus on Africa. The course places an emphasis on post-Cold War conflicts – often called 'new wars' – though it also examines historical context and long-term trends. *Politics of Ethnic Conflict* addresses the basic question of whether the nature of war has changed and it elucidates why this question is both central and controversial to scholars of war and peace.

From a methodological point of view, the course will introduce you to social network analysis, a booming field of research in conflict studies. We will critically discuss the fundamental concepts developed by social network analysis, such as centrality, as well as its main theoretical areas, including embeddedness, social capital, and brokerage. After providing a theoretical foundation, we will examine how a formal approach of networks can contribute to better understand conflict around the world. The course will also introduce you to data collection, study design, and surveys. Empirical data will allow you to actively engage with quantitative reasoning.

At the end of the course, you will be able to apply the major concepts of social network analysis to a wide range of ethnic, religious and political conflicts. You will also be able to identify the characteristics of network analysis compared with other attribute-based approaches, such as econometrics. Finally, you will be able to design a survey and analyze your own data using a relational approach. These skills are in high demand in government jobs, international organizations, and in the private sector.

Schedule

Jan 9	Course introduction
Jan 11	Library and Internet Resources, by David Schwieder Political Science Librarian Course introduction (Williams 2016: 1-12, Wolff 2006: 1-24)
Jan 16	New wars and conflict (Kaldor 2012: 1-31, 2013)
Jan 18	Introduction to social network analysis (Borgatti et al. 2009)
Jan 23	Ethnicity and conflict (William 2016: 140-159, Prunier 2009: intro, 329-376)
Jan 25	Introduction to conflict data (Raleigh et al. 2010)
Jan 30	Counterinsurgency (USAMC 2005: xxi-xliii, Nagl 2005: 15-33; Galula 1964: 49-74)
Feb 1	Working with ACLED data (Raleigh and Dowd 2017)
Feb 6	War in the Desert (Lawrence 1920, Walther et al. 2017)
Feb 8	Guest speaker: Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim, University of Florida (Ibrahim 2017)
Feb 13	War in the Jungle (Nagl 2005: 59-111, 191-212)
Feb 15	Guest speaker: Matt Kirwin, State Department (ICG 2017)
Feb 20	Centrality (Borgatti et al. 2013: 163-180)
Feb 22	Guest speaker: Steven Radil, University of Idaho (Lucas 2016)
Feb 27	Embeddedness and brokerage (Burt 2005: 10-57, Brass and Krackhardt 2012)
Mar 1	Introduction to UCINET (Borgatti et al. 2013: 24-61, Borgatti et al. 2014)
Mar 13	Dark networks (Hulst 2011, Duijn et al. 2014, Bright 2015)
Mar 15	Descriptive statistics (Borgatti et al. 2013: 149-162, Everton 2012: 92-125)
Mar 20	Terrorist networks (Walther and Christopoulos 2015, Knoke 2013)
Mar 22	Data visualization (Borgatti et al. 2013: 100-124)
Mar 27	Space and social networks (Medina and Hepner 2013: 1-54, Walther and Miles 2018, intro.)
Mar 29	Guest speaker: Dan Eizenga, University of Florida
Apr 3	Policy networks (Knoke 2012)
Apr 5	Brokerage (Kadushin 2012: chap. 12)
Apr 10	Online assignment (no class)
Apr 12	Online assignment (no class)
Apr 17	Boko Haram (Deltenre and Liégeois 2016, ICG 2016)
Apr 19	Homophily (Borgatti et al. 2013: 133-138)
Apr 24	Course overview, questions and answers

Final grade

The major assessment components of this course include:

- A 15-page research paper on a case study of your choice worth 50% of the final grade. This paper will address the evolution of an ethnic, religious or political conflict in Africa using ACLED data. For more information, see "How to write your final paper" on Canvas (http://elearning.ufl.edu/). The final paper is due April 24 by noon on Canvas.
- 5 assignments related to our data lab work. 10% each for 50% of the total grade.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following numerical scale:

A: 93-, A-: 90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72, D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62, E<60, E1: stopped attending, I: incomplete. For more information, visit UF's Grading Policies: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Literature

The textbooks for the course are:

- Borgatti SP, Everett MG, Johnson JC. 2013. *Analyzing Social Networks*. London, Sage
- Williams PD. 2016. *War and Conflict in Africa*. Malden, Polity (2nd ed.).

For more information on networks, see Briatte F. 2016. Awesome Network Analysis at https://github.com/briatte/awesome-network-analysis and Hanneman RA, Riddle M. 2005. *Introduction to Social Network Methods*. Riverside, CA: University of California. http://www.faculty.ucr.edu/~hanneman/nettext/.

Readings

Borgatti S, Mehra A, Brass D, Labianca G. 2009. Network analysis in the social sciences. *Science* 323: 892-895.
Borgatti et al. 2014. UCINET: Quick Start Guide, available at http://www.analytictech.com/ucinet/documentation/quickstart.pdf
Brass DJ, Krackhardt DM. 2012. Power, politics, and social networks in organizations, in Ferris GR, Treadway DC. (eds) *Politics in Organizations: Theory and Research Consideration*. New York, Routledge: 355-375.
Bright DA. 2015. Disrupting and dismantling dark networks: Lessons from social network analysis and law enforcement simulations, in Gerdes L. (ed.) *Illuminating Dark Networks*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 39-51.
Burt R.S. 2005. *Brokerage and Closure. An Introduction to Social Capital*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
Deltenre D, Liégeois M. 2016. Filling a leaking bathtub? Peacekeeping in Africa and the challenge of transnational armed rebellions. *African Security* 9(1): 1-20.
Duijn PA, Kashirin V, Sloot P. 2014. The relative ineffectiveness of criminal network disruption. *Nature* 4: 4238: 1-15

Everton SF. 2012. Tracking, destabilizing and disrupting dark networks, Naval Postgraduate School, http://calhoun.nps.edu/bitstream/handle/10945/34415/Everton_Disrupting-Dark-Networks-using-SNA-Manual.pdf?sequence=1

Galula D. 1964. *Counterinsurgency Warfare. Theory and Practice*. Westport, Praeger Security International.

Hulst R van der. 2011. Terrorist networks: The threat of connectivity, in Scott J, Carrington PJ (eds) *The SAGE Handbook of Social Network Analysis*. London, SAGE: 256-270.

Ibrahim I. 2017. The Wave of Jihadist Insurgency in West Africa: Global Ideology, Local Context, Individual Motivations, *West African Papers*, No. 7, OECD Publishing, Paris.

ICG 2016. *Boko Haram on the Back Foot?* Dakar, International Crisis Group Africa Briefing 120.

ICG. 2017. *The Social Roots of Jihadist Violence in Burkina Faso's North*. Brussels, International Crisis Group Africa Report 254.

Kadushin C. 2012. *Understanding Social Networks. Theories, Concepts and Findings*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Kaldor M. 2012. *New and Old Wars. Organized Violence in a Global Area*. Stanford, Stanford University Press.

Kaldor M. 2013. In defence of new wars. *Stability* 2(1): 1-16.

Knoke D. 2012. Policy networks, in Scott J, Carrington PJ (eds) *The SAGE Handbook of Social Network Ana*lysis. London, SAGE: 210-222.

Knoke D. 2013. It takes a network: The rise and fall of social network analysis in U.S. Army counterinsurgency doctrine. *Connections* 33(1): 1-8.

Lawrence TE. 1920. The evolution of a revolt. *Army Quarterly and Defense Journal*, October, http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/carl/download/csipubs/lawrence.pdf

Lucas, S. 2016. A Beginner's Guide to Syria's Civil War. *Political Insight* 7(1): 12-15.

Medina R, Hepner GF. 2013. *The geography of International Terrorism. An Introduction to Spaces and Places of Violent Non-State Groups*. Boca Raton, CRC Press.

Nagl JA. 2005. *Learning to Eat Soup With a Knife. Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam*. Chicago, Chicago University Press.

Prunier G. 2009. *Africa's World War. Congo, the Rwanda Genocide and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Raleigh C, Dowd C. 2017. Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) Codebook. Brighton, ACLED https://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ACLED_Codebook_2017.pdf

Raleigh, C, Hegre, H, Linke, A, Carlsen, J. 2010. Introducing ACLED: An armed conflict location and event dataset. *Journal of Peace Research* 47(5): 651–660

U.S. Army – Marine Corps. 2007. *Counterinsurgency Field Manual*. Chicago, Chicago University Press.

Walther O, Christopoulos D. 2015. Islamic terrorism and the Malian rebellion. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 27(3): 497-519.

Walther O, Leuprecht C, Skillicorn D. 2017. Political fragmentation and alliances among armed non-state actors in North and Western Africa (1997-2014). *Terrorism and Political Violence* DOI:10.1080/09546553.2017.1364635.

Walther O, Miles B. 2018. *African Border Disorders. Addressing Transnational Extremist Organizations*. New York, Routledge.

Wolff S. 2006. *Ethnic Conflict: A Global Perspective*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Software

Students must bring their own laptops and install the network analysis program UCINET, downloadable as a trial version here: https://sites.google.com/site/ucinetsoftware/downloads. Please install the 32-bit version ONLY.

UCINET is a **Windows** program. Mac users should install a Windows partition (Boot Camp), Windows emulator (VMware Fusion or Parallels), or a compatibility layer such as Wine. The students are responsible for installing the software on their own computer. The instructor cannot be held responsible for any damage or malfunction resulting from the installation or use of the software.

Ethics

Please review the University's policies regarding student conduct and conflict resolution, available through the Dean of Students Office website. Any violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs.

Other information

A course description is available here: https://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201801/all/politica.htm

Books and articles can be accessed using UF's Libraries: http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/. To find a scientific journal, please go to: http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/journals.html

The course includes lectures, class-room discussions, tutorial exercises, and case studies.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/