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PSC 323.01: Theories of Civil Violence

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Political Science 323
Theories of Civil Violence

Autumn 1999
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWF
Or by appointment
Office: LA 349

Texts: Thomas Greene, Comparative Revolutionary Movements 3rd ed
Jonathan White, Terrorism: An Introduction 2nd ed

Requirements:

This course involves a survey of various forms of civil violence and an exploration of the different theories, interpretations and perspectives that have been offered to explain them. Completing this review should result in the development of a model describing where and under what conditions politically relevant violence is likely to occur and who is likely to participate.

There will be two one-hour exams: the first will be on October 1 and the second on November 5. Each exam counts for 20% of the final grade. A two-hour comprehensive final exam counts for 40% of the final grade. The final exam is scheduled for December 13, 08:00-10:00. NO EARLY FINALS WILL BE GIVEN. Exams will consist of combinations of identification, short answer and essay questions.

Additional work includes a short paper (5 to 10 pages) and a presentation which address some event of civil violence. The presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long and is a summary of the material contained in the paper. For this assignment, the theoretical material developed in the course should be employed to explain some aspect of an actual incident of civil violence. Each student will select an event to be studied and the most appropriate theory will be assigned. The presentation/paper consists of four parts: a description of the theory being employed, a description of the incident of civil violence, an assessment of the utility of the theory, and a bibliography. Notes and bibliography style of the paper must follow the Turabian manual of style. The presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the semester. All papers are due December 6. This combined assignment counts for 20% of the final grade. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON INCLUDING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPUTERS AND WORD PROCESSORS. THEREFORE IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT BEFORE THE DEADLINE. EARLY PAPERS ARE WELCOME!

In order to make the experience of this course as congenial as possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do not use class time to read, write letters, chat with your
neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

**TOPIC OUTLINE:**

1. Concepts and Terms  
   Greene, Ch. 1-2
2. Conditions and Preconditions  
   Greene, Ch. 10-11
3. Theories  
   Greene, Ch. 12

**First Exam--October 1**

4. Participants: Leaders  
   Greene, Ch. 4
5. Participants: Followers  
   Greene, Ch. 5
6. Ideology  
   Greene, Ch. 6
7. Organization  
   Greene, Ch. 7
8. Resources  
   Greene, Ch. 8-9

**Second Exam--November 5**

9. Terrorism Defined  
   White, Ch. 1
10. Terrorism: Goals and Objectives  
    White Ch. 2
11. Terrorism: Regional Analysis  
    White, Ch. 3, 13, 14
    A. The West
    B. Latin American  
    White, Ch. 4, 8, 9
    C. Middle East  
    White, Ch. 5, 12
    D. United States  
    White, Ch. 10, 11
12. Terrorism and the Media  
    White, Ch. 16
13. Dealing with Terrorism  
    White, Ch. 15, 17
14. Dynamics of Terrorism  
    White Ch. 6, 7

**Final Exam December 13  (08:00-10:00)**

Note: September 20 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.
Audrey, Robert; The Territorial Imperative.

Brinton, Crane; The Anatomy of Revolution.

Davies, James Chowing; When Men Revolt and Why.

Feierabend, Ivo K.; Anger Violence and Politics.

Erikson, Erik H.; Gandhi's Truth.

Goldstone, Jack A.; Revolutions.

Hagopian, Mark N.; The Phenomenon of Revolutions.

Herman, Edward; The “Terrorism” Industry.

Hoffer, Eric; The True Believer.

Lorenz, Konrad; On Aggression.

Nieburg, H.L.; Political Violence.

Rule, James B.; Theories of Civil Violence.

Skocpol, Theda; Social Revolutions in the Modern World.

Schelling, Thomas C.; Arms and Violence.

Schelling, Thomas C.; The Strategy of Conflict.

Sederberg, Peter; The Fire Within.

Tiger, Lionel; The Imperial Animal.

Wolfenstein, E. Victor; The Revolutionary Personality.