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PSC 355.01: Theories of Civil Violence

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Text: Coady, *Morality and Political Violence*

Requirements:

This course is intended to (A) identify the various forms of civil violence and (B) explore different theories, interpretations, and perspectives that have been offered to explain why and under what conditions civil violence occurs. This review will result in the development of a model making it possible to describe conditions conducive to civil violence, predict when it is likely to occur, and identify who is likely to participate.

Course assessment consists of four elements: two midterm exams, a comprehensive final exam, and a research paper. Of these, one midterm exam and the final exam are required. One midterm exam and the research paper are optional and provide an opportunity to improve the overall grade. The first midterm exam will be on September 29 and the second on November 3. A comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 14, 8:00-10:00. **NO EARLY FINALS WILL BE GIVEN.** Exams will consist of identification, short answer and/or essay questions. (BLUEBOOKS REQUIRED)

Optional Paper: The paper should be ten pages minimum or 2500 words and should be based on no fewer than three sources, not including the textbook. The bibliography should consist only of works consulted but not referenced in footnotes. Footnotes and bibliography entries should be in the Turabian style. The first step is to write a short statement indicating the nature of the project. This should be done in the first two or three weeks of the semester.

Assessment of this paper will be based on:

1. A clear delineation of the scope of the paper in terms of the subject matter and the time frame.
2. Quantity and quality of the material presented to adequately describe, analyze, and/or explain the subject matter of the paper.
3. Organization and structure.
4. Appropriate English language usage.

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.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Introduction Coady, Ch. 1
2. Concepts and Terms Coady, Ch. 2
3. Violence and Legitimacy Coady, Ch. 3
4. Just War Theory Coady, Ch. 4, 5
5. Violence and “innocent” victims Coady, Ch. 7

First Exam—September 29

6. Rules of War Coady, Ch. 6, 9
7. “Illegal combatants” Coady, Ch. 10
8. Morality of violence Coady, Ch. 11
9. Limits of peace Coady, Ch. 13, 14

Second Exam--November 3

10. Terrorism Coady, Ch. 8
11. WMD Coady, Ch. 12

LECTURE TOPICS

1. Civil Violence
 - A. Violence – Definition
 - B. Violence – A typology
2. Metaphors
3. Pop explanations
4. Civil violence – long term causes
 - A. Economic growth
 - B. Technological innovation
 - C. Science

- D. Democratization
 - E. Secularization
 - F. Modern state
 - G. Nationalism
5. Civil violence – midterm causes
- A. Economic depression
 - B. Alienation of intellectuals
 - C. Division and ineptitude of ruling class
 - D. War
 - E. Government financial crisis
6. Immediate precipitators
- A. Accidental
 - B. Planned
7. Revolution
- A. Definitions
 - B. Brinton's model
 - B. Marx and others
8. Explanations
- A. Biological theories
 - B. Social structure
 - C. Personality – genetics
 - D. Frustration-Aggression
 - E. Criminological theories
 - F. Blocked opportunity

H. Hierarchy of needs

I. Violence as strategy

9. J-curve

10. Who participates

A. True Believer

B. Role of ideology

11. "The War on Terror"

Final Exam December 14 (08:00-10:00)

Note: October 10 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.