PSC 355.01: Theories of Civil Violence

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Political Science 355
Theories of Civil Violence

Autumn 2008
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWF
Or by appointment
Office: LA 349

Texts: Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*
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 will be based on three exams and one research paper. Of these, two exams (including the final) are required. The second exam and the research paper are optional. These are not for extra credit but rather provide an opportunity to earn a better grade. The first exam will be on September 29 and the second on November 3. A comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 10, 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 that three sources, not including the textbooks. 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.

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. Introduction
   Coady, Ch. 1; Kalyvas, Intro

2. Concepts and Terms
   Coady, Ch. 2; Kalyvas, Ch. 1, 2

3. Civil Violence
   A. Violence – a typology
   Kalyvas, Ch. 7

   B. Causes
   Kalyvas, Ch. 2
C. Social Factors
D. Economics
E. Control regimes
F. Interpersonal violence

First Exam—September 29

4. Violence and legitimacy
   A. Just War Theory
   B. Violence and “innocent” victims
   C. Rules of War
   D. “Illegal combatants”
   E. Morality of violence
   F. Limits of peace

4. Irregular warfare
   A. Collaboration
   B. Control

Second Exam—November 3

5. 21st century violence
   A. Terrorism
   B. The “war on terror”
   C. WMD
   D. Counter measures

6. Who Participates?

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

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