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PSC 355.01: Theories of Civil Violence

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Political Science 355
Theories of Civil Violence

Autumn 2004
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWF
Or by appointment
Office: LA 349

Texts: White, *Terrorism* 4th ed
Conteh-Morgan, *Collective Political Violence*
Goldstone, *Revolutions* 3rd ed

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.

There will be two one-hour exams: the first will be on October 9 and the second on November 13. 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 20, 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 presentation that addresses some event of civil violence. The presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long and contain the following: (a) a brief description of the event, (b) a theory which explains it, (c) an assessment of whether the event could have been predicted. Presentation will be made during the last weeks of the semester. Given the tight schedule, it will not be possible to reschedule presentations. This will count for 20% of the course grade.

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:

READING ASSIGNMENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Concepts and Terms | Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 1 |
| 2. Conditions and Preconditions | Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 3, 6, 9 |
| 3. Trends in Civil Violence | Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 2, 12 |
| 4. Social Factors | Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 10, 11 |

5. Psychological Factors Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 4, 5

First Exam--October 1

6. Revolution: Classic View Goldstone, Ch. 1
Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 8

7. Revolution: Causes and Types Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 8
Goldstone, Ch. 3

8. Revolution and Modernization Goldstone, Ch. 2

9. Revolutionary Personality Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 7

10. Revolutions: Examples Goldstone, Ch. 5-9

Second Exam--November 5

11. Revolutions: Causes Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 8

12. Terrorism defined Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 13
White, Part I

13. Background of Terrorism White, Part, II

14. Modern Terrorism White, Part III

15. The Terrorist Threat White, Part IV
Conteh-Morgan, Ch. 14

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

Note: October 11 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.