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Fall 9-1-2002

### PSC 355.01: Theories of Civil Violence

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Political Science 355  
Theories of Civil Violence

Autumn 2002  
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWF  
Or by appointment  
Office: LA 349

Texts: Ian Lesser, et al, Countering the New Terrorism

Raymond Taras, Understanding Ethnic Conflict 2<sup>nd</sup> 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           | Taras, Ch. 1 |
| 2. Conditions and Preconditions |              |
| 3. International norms          | Taras, Ch. 2 |
| 4. International security       | Taras, Ch. 3 |

5. International intervention Taras, Ch. 4

First Exam--October 9

6. Civil violence and the end of empire Taras, Ch. 5

7. Separatist movements Taras, Ch. 6

8. Ethnic wars Taras, Ch. 7

9. Failed states Taras, Ch. 8

10. Outside intervention Taras, Ch. 9

Second Exam--November 10

11. US activity Taras, Ch. 10

12. Terrorism defined Lesser, Ch. 1

13. The ``new'' terrorism Lesser, Ch. 2

14. Organization Lesser, Ch. 3

15. Dealing with Violence Lesser, Ch. 4

Final Exam December 20 (08:00-10:00)

Note: October 14 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.