

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLI 4060: Political Violence and Resistance

Tu-Th 4:30-5:50 pm
Syllabus

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Office Hours: Tu-Th 3:15-4:15 pm
Room: Stubbs-208B

Fall 2015

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of the main contexts of contemporary political violence and resistance, such as insurgency, terrorism, rebellion, and revolution. I expect students to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the leading theories on violent and nonviolent resistance, ways to test such theories, and implications of the current literature for policy. Along with participation in class discussions (10% of the overall grade) and quizzes (15% of the overall grade), students will be graded on a 20-25 page research proposal (65% of the overall grade) that addresses a specific issue of contemporary political violence, as well as a presentation of the paper (10% of the overall grade). Throughout the course's duration, I will work with students on the development of their research proposals, providing them with feedback on up to three submitted drafts.

Due Dates:

Week Three: Topic for Approval (5% of the research proposal grade)
Week Four

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler. (2004) "G

Films:

Der Baader Meinhof Komplex. (2008) Produced by Bernd Eichinger. Directed by Uli Edel. 1 hr. 49 min. Constantin Film Produktion.

The Path to 9/11. (2006) Produced by Marc Platt and Cyrus Nowrasteh. Directed by David L. Cunningham. 2 hr. 40 min. Touchstone Television.

Six: The Life Spans of Resistance Organizations

Discussion Questions: What factors contribute to sustaining resistance campaigns? Do all resistance organizations seek longevity? Is organizational survival a useful measurement of resistance success? What is the global network of militant organizations and how does it affect the life spans of militant organizations?

Abrahms, Max. "The Credibility Paradox: Violence as a Doubled-

Readings:

