This course is designed to comparatively examine different contexts of ethnic, nationalist, and religious violence. Students will engage in collaborative research projects as well as individual writing assignments to explore variation in the sources and effects of this type of violence. The course begins by exposing students to some of the classic philosophical tracts on what constitutes ethnicity and identity and then moves to historical case studies. Students will be organized into groups to represent and simulate actual political and social actors in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and North America. These groups will present to the class their organization’s goals and resort to violence. The rest of class will then critically question the players to illuminate motives and ambiguities.

**Assigned Texts**
For each lecture, there are assigned readings from books and articles. All readings are on reserve in the library. Four texts comprise much of the readings for each class. The texts are available in the bookstore:

- Altina Waller, *Fued: Hatfields, McCoys, and Social Change in Appalachia, 1860-1900*
- Fergal Keane, *Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey*
- Shaul Mishal and Avraham Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*

**Grades and responsibilities**
Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures as well as assigned readings. Grading is comprised of four components:

1. Mid-term examination  
20%
2. Red team presentation (group)  
15%
3. Red team paper (individual)  
25%
4. Final examination  
0%

In addition to the mid-term and final, class simulations (Red Teams) will also be scheduled. Each student will comprise a team designed to present an account of that group’s resort to violence. Each member will present a 7 page double-spaced (minimum) to 10 page (maximum) analysis of their group’s goals, reasons for action, and expectations. The presentation to class (and defense against questioning) will be a team effort. The paper will be an individual effort. You will receive a grade for each.
**Please turn off mobile phones**

**More than two unexcused absences from class will result in failure.**

**Laptops may only be used in class for note taking. Please see me for permission**

- Altina Waller, *Fued: Hatfields, McCoys, and Social Change in Appalachia, 1860-1900*
- Fergal Keane, *Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey*
- Roberto Saviano, *Gomorrah: Italy's Other Mafia*

In the first part of the course we will examine general approaches to the concepts of power and conflict in the modern world. Gain an understanding of how each author defines the subject, the problem, and the argument.

**Week 1**

8/24
Introduction: Modern Power

8/26
Power and Violence
Hanna Arendt, “On Violence”

**Week 2**

8/31
Power and Conflict
Hanna Arendt, “On Violence”
James Scott, “Behind the Official Story”

9/2
Michel Focault, “The body of the condemned”

**Week 3**

Power and the modern state

9/7
Michel Focault, “The body of the condemned”

9/9
Film: *Battle of Algiers*

**Week 4:**
In this section of the course we examine an historical American conflict, the so-called Hatfields-McCoy Fued.

Waller is a historian and is making a clear case to explain the historic Hatfield/McCoy Feud. Understand what Waller argues is not responsible for this violence and what is responsible. Does this case carry lessons for social violence today?
9/14 (Course short paper 1 is due)
Violence in 19th century America

9/16
Waller, pp.17-101

**Week 5**
Traditional Societies and Conflict

9/21
Waller, *Fued*, pp.101-139

9/23
Waller, *Fued*, pp.139-181

**Week 6**

9/28
*Simulation: Hatfields and McCoys*

9/30
Conflict and Cooperation: Israel and Palestine
*The Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine*
Mishal and Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*, pp.1-82
Read also:
Guilain Denoeux, “The Forgotten Swamp: Navigating Political Islam”

**Week 7**

10/5 Mishal and Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*, pp.1-82
Nathan Brown, “The Palestinian Authority”

10/7
Mishal and Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*, pp.83-146

**Week 8**

10/12
Mishal and Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*, pp.83-146
On reserve movie, *Paradise Now*

10/14
Gaza vs. IDF
Week 9

10/19  FALL BREAK

10/21
*Simulation: Israel-Palestine*

Week 10

10/26
War economies, smuggling, literature

*Organized Crime as Cooperation*

10/28
Gambetta, cont’d

*Globalization and crime*
Peter Andreas, “Transnational Crime and Globalization”
Roberto Saviano, *Gomorrah* pp. 3-37

Week 11

11/2
Roberto Saviano, *Gomorrah* pp. 3-37

11/4
Roberto Saviano, *Gomorrah* pp. 38-135

Week 12

11/9 Film night: *Gomorrah*
Roberto Saviano, *Gomorrah* pp. 136-219

11/11
Roberto Saviano, *Gomorrah* pp. 220-300

*Simulation: International Wise Guys*
Week 13

11/16
Genocide

11/18
Genocide

Rwanda

Week 14

11/23
Rwanda

11/25 THANKSGIVING BREAK
Rwanda

Week 15

11/30
Rwanda and Congo Today
Fergal Keane, *Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey*, pp. 95-191
Denis Tull, “The Democratic Republic of Congo: Militarized Politics in a Failed State”

12/2
*Simulation: Tutsis and Hutus*

This course is designed to compare decision making strategies and political conditions across 6 simulation cases. To develop and learn from the simulations requires substantial reading and analysis. Please keep up.

Most readings can be accessed on-line through the library, unless otherwise noted.

1/17 Introduction

1/22 Differences and Conflict in the Modern World
James Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*, pp. 1-16.
1/31  Ethnicity as a given
Clifford Geertz, “Primordial ties.”

2/5  Ethnicity as constructed
Eller and Coughlan, “The Poverty of Primordialism”
McGarry and O’Leary, “Eliminating and Managing Ethnic Differences.”

2/7  Violence and hillbillies in 19th century America

**Evening of 2/7 event to attend (makeup for 1/24)**

2/12  Institutional Change in Appalachia
Waller, *Fued*, pp.139-181.

2/14  RED TEAM: McCoys

What is nationalism and what forms does it take? In this simulation we will read some of the classic texts on nationalism, violence, and liberation. How can this help us understand the Iraqi insurgency?

2/19  Nationalism
Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, pp. 1-7
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, pp. 9-46

2/21  National Liberation
Frantz Fanon, “Concerning Violence, from *The Wretched of the Earth: The Handbook for the Black Revolution that is Changing the Shape of the World*

2/26  MOVIE: *Battle of Algers*

2/28  MOVIE cont’d

3/5  US RED TEAM: US Counterinsurgency
3/7 MIDTERM

3/12-3/16 BREAK

3/19 Organized crime as ethnic group

3/21 Trust and Crime

3/26 RED TEAM: The Wise Guys

3/28 Politics, Islam, and Resistance
Guilain Denoeux, “The Forgotten Swamp: Navigating Political Islam”

4/2 The Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine
Mishal and Sela, The Palestinian Hamas, pp.1-82

4/4 MOVIE, Paradise Now

4/9 MOVIE, Paradise Now

4/11 HAMAS

4/16 Genocide and the question of ethnicity

4/18 Into Rwanda
Fergal Keane, Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey, pp. 47-93.

RED TEAM: Hutu political leadership
Fergal Keane, Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey, pp. 95-191
Samantha Power, A Problem from Hell, pp. 354-377.

4/23 Religion: Political Islam

4/25

4/30 The Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine (HAMAS)
12/06 RED TEAM: HAMAS Leadership

“Israel/PA: Hamas Must End Civilian Attacks,” Press release
“Israeli Airstrike on Crowded Civilian Area Condemned,” and “Israel: Stop Using Flachetts in Gaza,” Press Releases

12/08 Toward Solutions
Lake and Rothchild, “Containing Fear: The O