Aims and organization

This seminar builds on the MACIS seminar on “political violence” and covers the literature on civil war and other types of conflict in the contemporary world. We will cover topics such as ethnic violence, political economy perspectives on war, the role of political institutions, and the international dimensions of civil conflict. The students will develop an original research question to be dealt with in a research paper.

The seminar will run for one term and will expose students to the literature on political order and conflict. It will provide an overview of core topics and readings, although students are highly encouraged to consult readings not covered on the syllabus when developing their projects. Students will write a research design, which may eventually turn into a full-length paper or thesis, and are expected to present their design during the final sessions of the course.

Requirements and grading

Students will have to fulfill the following requirements:

• Participate at the sessions of the seminar.
• Read the required readings assigned for each meeting.
• Write three short memos on the topics. The memos should develop a critique and analysis of the week’s readings. These memos are due on Monday evening of the week in which this topic is scheduled. Students need to be prepared to briefly present the main arguments appearing in their memos in class.
• Prepare a research design (due in week 12) that outlines the research question and the relevant literature for the research paper (see below).
• Discuss a research design of another student.
• Write a research paper on a topic chosen by the students (in agreement with the instructors).
Grades for the research seminar will consist of the following elements:

- 70 % term paper
- 10 % memos
- 20 % research presentation and class participation

All readings are available at:

http://cederman.ethz.ch/teaching/poc2014/
(User Name & Password: “poc2014”)

Political Order and Conflict -- Schedule

Week 1 (February 18th). Introduction

Week 2 (February 25th). Concepts & Classical Approaches to Conflict


[Recommended reading:

Week 3 (March 4th). Political Economy and Natural Resources


**Week 4 (March 11th). Ethno-nationalist Exclusion**


[Recommended reading:

**Week 5 (March 18th). Economic Inequality**


**Week 6 (March 25th). Democracy, Democratization, and Conflict**


[Recommended reading:}

**Week 7 (April 1<sup>st</sup>). Trans-border Relations and International Diffusion**


[Easter break]

**Week 8 (April 15<sup>th</sup>). Duration and Termination**


**Week 9 (April 22<sup>nd</sup>). One-sided Violence**


**Week 10 (April 29th). Governmental Power Sharing**


**Week 11 (May 6th). Territorial Power Sharing and Partition**


Week 12 (May 13\textsuperscript{th}). Peacekeeping


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Week 13 (May 20\textsuperscript{th}). Student presentations I

Week 14 (May 27\textsuperscript{th}). Student presentations II

Final Papers Due: [TBD]