Instructor: Zachariah Mampilly  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2 to 4pm (please notify me in advance)  
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This seminar will explore contemporary Civil Wars from a variety of different angles and approaches. The course is divided into three sections. First, we will read a selection of differing perspectives on the causes and consequences of civil conflicts. Next, we will explore literature on the organization and behavior of rebel organizations by rebel theorists and academics. And finally, we will consider three case studies from different parts of the world.

The course will be graded on a 25-25-50 basis, with a mid-term worth 25%, a substantive research paper worth 50%, and class attendance and participation worth 25%. The paper will require you to examine in detail a specific conflict not covered in class using material from the course. It will be due in class on Monday June 5th. I will provide greater details once the class begins. You are expected to attend all lectures and films and participate in the discussion.

Course Website:  
All the readings for the class are available in the “List of Links” section of the Class Website located at:


If you have any problem accessing the readings, contact me for assistance. I will also make occasional posts on the discussion board which you will be expected to check regularly and make contributions to.

Week 1 (April 3 to April 10): Natural Resources and Financial Incentives


**Week 2 (April 12 to April 14): Three Takes on Identity: Ethnicity, Class or Urban/Rural?**


**Week 3 (April 17 to April 19): Citizenship and the National Question**


**Week 4 (April 21 to April 26): The International Dimensions of Civil Wars**


**Friday, April 28: MIDTERM**

**Monday, May 1: FILM – “The Battle of Algiers”**
Week 5 (May 3 to May 8): Theories of Revolution


Wednesday, May 10: FILM – “The Battle of Algiers”

Weeks 6 and 7 (May 12 to May 17): Rebel Behavior

Mampilly, Zachariah. “Stationary Bandits: Understanding Rebel Governance: Chapter 1.”


Friday, May 19: FILM – “The Terrorist”

Case Studies

Week 8 (May 22 to May 24): Sri Lanka


Wednesday, May 24: GUEST LECTURER – Nimmi Gowrinathan

Friday, May 26: FILM – “The Terrorist”

Monday, May 28: Memorial Day (No Class)
**Week 9 (May 31): Sudan**


**Week 9 (June 2): Congo**


**Monday, June 5: FINAL PAPER DUE**