PS 688 - Disaggregated Conflict Analysis
Prof. Christian Davenport

Class: Tuesdays, 2-4pm (HH, 5664)
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-1:30 & by appointment (ISR, 4246)
The course involves four components

1) careful reading of the assigned material  
2) active participation in class (40% of the grade)  
3) a 3-5 page outline of the final paper (10%)  
4) 1 final paper and submission to journal (40% of the grade)

**Final paper** – At the end of class, a paper will be submitted concerning a topic of the students choice (discussed ahead of time with the Professor). Primarily the student should seek to extend the already existing literature reviewed in the course or take the area in a new direction. The paper should not exceed 35 pages in text (not including notes, tables, references and so forth). This work will represent a complete piece of scholarship and at the completion of the course it will be submitted to a journal that we deem appropriate.

Your final submission/article should include (not necessarily in this order):

- research question (what do you want to know)  
- literature review (what is known)  
- theory (why does the phenomenon of interest take place)  
- hypotheses (what do you expect)  
- data (what information do you examine to test the theory)  
- method (what approach is used to test the argument)  
- findings (what do you find and how well do your findings hold up when robustness checks are made)  
- conclusion (what do you conclude regarding the research question, implications, limitations)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at least two weeks prior to the time when the accommodation will be needed. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; http://www.umich.edu/sswd) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

**Communication**

There are three ways to communicate with the instructor and I wanted to provide expected response times so that you can make the selection that best meets the
students needs.

In-Person meeting during office hours: Immediate response  
Telephone: 3-5 days  
Email: 7-10 days

if I have not responded by this time, send the email again or try alternative method of communication;  
in the subject line write “IMPORTANT CLASS BUSINESS” (in caps)  
be as direct as possible about what you need me to do.

Course Schedule

September
3 – General Overview

10 – Discussing the Parameters of a Disaggregated Study of Political Conflict/Violence

"The Micro Foundations of Social Contracts, Civil Conflicts and International Peacemaking"; Jose Cuesta and Mansoob Morshel, Ideas


"The Future of Field Experiments in IR", Susan Hyde, Annals, 2010


Special issue on Disaggregating Civil War, 2009, Journal of Conflict Resolution

17 – Datasets Available:
Davenport: Rwanda, Northern Ireland, India  
Conrad and Moore: ITT  
HRDAG: Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Guatemala, etc.  
Sarah Soule et al.: United States  
Ron Francisco: Europe  
Verwimp: Rwanda

24 – Kristine Eck

Reading:

“Coercion in Rebel Recruitment”, Unpublished Manuscript


October

1 – Will Moore

Readings:

Observing interaction: An introduction to sequential analysis, R Bakeman & JM Gottman - 1997, chaps TBA

Time series intervals and statistical inference: The effects of temporal aggregation on event data analysis, SM Shellman - *Political Analysis*, 2004

Action-reaction or rational expectations?, WH Moore - *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 39 (1), 129-167


8 – Thomas Zeitzoff

Readings:


15 – [Holiday]

22 – Wendy Pearlman
Readings:

“Self Expression Cascades in the Syrian Uprising”, Wendy Pearlman, Unpublished Manuscript

“Love in the Syrian Revolution”, Wendy Pearlman, Huffington Post


29 – Lisa Hultman & Hanne Fjelde

Readings:


November
5 – Jason Lyall

Readings:

“Dynamic Coercion in Civil War”, Unpublished Manuscript


12 – Chris Fariss

Readings:

“Respect for Human Rights has Improved Over Time: A Dynamic Latent Variable Model with Implications for the Analysis of Political Texts”, Unpublished Manuscript


19 – Majike Verpooten

Readings:


26 – Elisabeth Wood


“Sexual Violence During War: Toward an Understanding of Variation”, Elisabeth Wood, Chapter in Order, Conflict and Violence, 2008
“Rape During War is Not Inevitable: Variation in Wartime Sexual Violence”, Elisabeth Wood, Chapter in Understanding and Proving International Sex Crimes, 2012

“Armed Groups and Sexual Violence: When is Wartime Rape Rare?”, Elisabeth Wood, Politics and Society 37(1):131-162

December
  3 – Final Project discussion
  10 – Final Project discussion