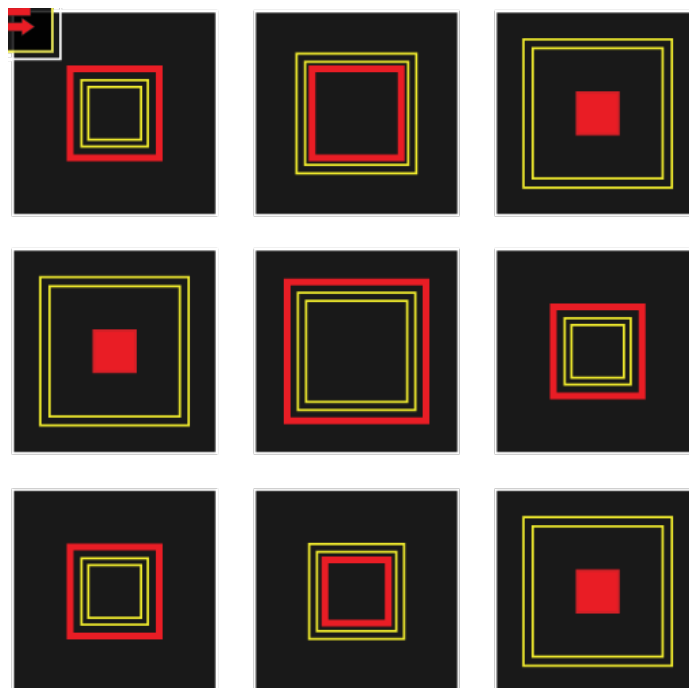


# PS 489 - Perspectives In/On Conflict

## Prof. Christian Davenport



Class: Tuesdays, 9-11am (Location: 412 West Hall)  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-1:30 (Location: ISR, 4246)

### Abstract & Overview

There are a great many ways to study political conflict and violence (politically, sociologically, psychologically and economically), each with their own strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately, most research only employs one approach in isolation of the others. This course is designed to shed light on the different approaches simultaneously highlighting the distinct research questions (onset, variation, lethality, type and termination), units of analysis (individuals, groups, nations, international system), data (interviews, surveys, experiments, content analysis) and methods (narrative, regression) associated with them. Cross-national human rights violations as well as conflict in the U.S., Northern Ireland and Rwanda are employed within the course to illustrate differences as well as guide original research projects.

## Principles

### Attendance:

Show up, learn, contribute (20% of the grade) and do not lose points for missing quizzes

### Grading:

Participation: 20%

- contributing to classroom discussion through informed commentary/reflection about reading and/or prior discussion

Examinations: 45%

- one formal test demonstrating knowledge of diverse approaches to the topic through comparing/contrasting (30%)
- an undisclosed number of informal quizzes, administered randomly throughout the semester (15%)
  - o if a quiz is missed and there is no University sanctioned excuse, then the student will be issued a "0" for the assignment.
  - o if missed is missed and there is a University sanctioned excuse, then the student will be given a make-up examination.

Final Assignment: 35%

- a systematic evaluation of your original (yes, original) synthetic model created by combining diverse approaches
- format: 20 page research paper based on presenting (mandatory) and/or evaluating your argument with evidence (extra credit)
- Due date: Monday, December 16

For writing take advantage of the Sweetland Writing Center (<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/>)

### 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://ssd.umich.edu>) 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 your needs.

In-Person meeting during office hours: Immediate response

Telephone: 7-10 days

Email: 3-5 days with “Perspectives Student Inquiry” in the subject line

## Class Schedule

### September

3 – General Overview

10 – Individual

General Aggression (Psychology)

“Violent Evil and General Aggression Model”, Craig Anderson and Nicholas Carnagey, 2004

<http://www.psychology.iastate.edu/faculty/caa/abstracts/2000-2004/04AC.pdf>

Frustration Aggression (Psychology)

“Frustration-aggression hypothesis: Examination and reformulation”, Leonard Berkowitz, 1989, *Psychological Bulletin* 106(1): 59-73

Social Identity Theory (Psychology)

“Social Identity and Intergroup Behavior”, Henri Tajfel, 1974, *Social Science Information* 13(2):65-93

Rent Seeking (Economics)

“Greed and Grievance in Civil War”, Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, 2004, *Oxford Economic Papers* 563-595

Social Dominance Theory (Psychology)

“Social Dominance Theory: It’s Agenda and Method”, Jim Sidanius, Felicia Pratto, Colette van Laar and Shana Levin, 2004, *Political Psychology* 25(6): 845-880

17 – Individual

Genetics (Biology/Psychology)

“Unlocking the Secrets of Human Biology: Implications for Diplomacy, Security, and War”, William English, H-Diplo I(1): 30 March 2010

URL: <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/ISSF/roundtables/rt-1-1-english.html>

"Some Considerations on the Potential Impact of Hormones on

Aggression", Rose McDermott and Peter K. Hatemi, H-Diplo I(1):  
30 March 2010

URL: <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/ISSF/roundtables/rt-1-1-mcdermott-hatemi.html>

“Testosterone and human aggression: an evaluation of the challenge hypothesis,” John Archer, *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews* 30(3): 319-345

#### 24 – Organizational

##### Bargaining (Political Science)

“Exploring the Bargaining Theory of War”, Dan Reiter, 2003, *Perspectives on Politics* 1:27-43

“Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer than Others?”, James Fearon, 2004, *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 275-301

##### Resource Mobilization (Sociology)

“Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory”, John McCarthy and Mayer Zald, 1977, *American Journal of Sociology* 82(6): 1212-1241

#### October

##### 1 – Organizational

##### Evolution (Political Science/Criminology)

“An Evolutionary Theory of State Repression”, Christian Davenport and Rose McDermott, 2012, Unpublished Manuscript

“Collective Violence: An Evolutionary Perspective”, Russil Durrant, 2011, *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 16:428–436

##### Coalitional Behavior (Psychology)

"Evolution, Coalitional Psychology, and War", Anthony Lopez, H-Diplo I(1): 30 March 2010

<http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/ISSF/roundtables/rt-1-1-lopez.html>

##### 8 – National

##### Domestic Democratic Peace (Political Science)

“Democracy, Power, Genocide, and Mass Murder.” Rudy Rummel, 1995, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 39(1): 3-26

“Democracy and the Violation of Human Rights: A Statistical

Analysis from 1976 to 1996”, Christian Davenport and David A. Armstrong, 2004, *American Journal of Political Science*, 48(3): 538-554Published

“Freedom Under Fire: Repression, Context and the Fragility of the Domestic Democratic Peace”, Christian Davenport, 2004, Unpublished Manuscript

15 – [Holiday]

22 – International  
Dependency Theory (Sociology)

Pending

29 – Midterm Examination

November

5 – Individual & Organizational  
“Rebels Dilemma” (Political Science)

“Micromobilization Processes” (Sociology)  
“Repression, Micromobilization and Political Protest”, Karl-Dieter Opp and Wolfgang Roehl, *Social Forces* 69(2):521-547

12 – Organizational & National  
“Political Process Model” (Sociology)

Pending

19 – Individual & National  
“Insurgency Model” (Political Science)

“Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War”, James Fearon and David Laitin, 2003, *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90

26 – Individual, Organizational & National?

There is none!

December

3 – Final Project discussion

10 – Final Project discussion