



Pol Sci 159 (67481), Winter 2020

## Contentious Politics

TuTh 12:30-1:50 p.m., Social Science Lab (SSL), Room 145



**Instructor:** Wynand Kastart

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**Office hours:** TuTh 2:00-3:00 p.m. (and by appointment),  
3151 Social Science Plaza (SSPB), Room 5239

The contents of this syllabus may be subject to changes throughout the quarter, which will be announced in advance (i.e., before they come into effect).

### Course Description

Contentious politics revolves around the competitive struggle for political power that operates beyond the realm of political institutions – protests, strikes, boycotts, riots, terrorism, rebellion, insurgency, revolution, military coups, civil war, state violence and other forms of coercive political activities. Drawing upon insights from within the field of Political Science, this course explores the causes, conduct and consequences of these manifestations of political conflict. To do so, it starts by laying out the conceptual groundwork for examining both the definitional overlap between political institutions and political contention, and the causal and empirical links that connect the two (Part I). Next, this course examines the implications of contentious politics for a wide range of political outcomes, including democracy and civil peace (Part II). It then investigates the causal forces that spur the emergence of political contention and shape its conduct (Part III). Does democracy encourage terrorism? Does civil resistance outperform armed struggle as a method of political influence, or does violence offer a more effective alternative? Does nonviolent conflict advance the cause of democracy, or is it the other way around? These are some of the questions this course explores.

**Units:** 4

### Required Textbook

Chenoweth, Erica and Maria J. Stephan (2011), *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*, New York, N.Y.: Columbia University Press.

Tilly, Charles and Sidney Tarrow (2015), *Contentious Politics*, 2nd ed., Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

## Course Requirements (percentages indicate weights for your final score):

<b>Class Attendance</b>	5%
Each class, students will be asked to sign an attendance sheet.	
<b>Class Participation</b>	5%
There will be occasional pop quizzes to assess class participation.	
<b>Assignments (4 in total; 15% each)</b>	60%
Submit a total of 4 assignments (paper copies due in class):	
#1 due on Thursday (12:30 p.m.) of Week 4 (1/30).	
#2 due on Thursday (12:30 p.m.) of Week 6 (2/13).	
#3 due on Thursday (12:30 p.m.) of Week 8 (2/27).	
#4 due on Thursday (12:30 p.m.) of Week 10 (3/12).	
<b>Final Exam</b>	30%
Friday 3/20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Social Science Lab (SSL), Room 145.	

### Class Attendance and Class Participation (each worth 5% of final score)

Class attendance is mandatory, affects your grade and will be recorded using in-class sign-in sheets. You can request excused absences for illness, familial situations demanding your immediate attention, religious observances, and official UCI business. Each class, you are expected to have read the assigned materials in advance, to have studied the previous lecture, and to participate actively and meaningfully. To assess your class participation, there will be occasional pop quizzes on that day's readings and the material presented in the previous day's lecture.

### Assignments (each worth 15% of final score)

Students are required to submit a total of four assignments (printed copies are due in class on the dates listed in the syllabus). Students should complete these assignments on their own. Late assignments will be heavily penalized. Assignments include opportunities for extra credit to improve your final score. The assignments are posted on Canvas.

### Final Exam (worth 30% of final score)

The final exam is cumulative and will cover the material from Weeks 1-10. On the exam, students will be asked to answer 20 multiple choice questions (worth  $\frac{1}{3}$  of exam points) and several short essay questions (worth  $\frac{2}{3}$  of exam points). Essay questions are similar to assignment questions. The final exam takes place on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in Social Science Lab (SSL), Room 145.

### Reading Requirements

The assigned readings are listed in the course outline presented below and are indicated by citations, which refer to the full list of references presented at the end of this syllabus. Some citations only assign particular chapters or pages. For instance, "Davenport (2007, Chapter 1)" only assigns Chapter 1 of "Davenport, Christian (2007), *State Repression and the Domestic Democratic Peace*, New York, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press" for that particular class date. All assigned readings can be accessed via Canvas, except Chenoweth and Stephan (2011) and Tilly and Tarrow (2015).

## Letter Grade Policies

Your final score can range from 0 to 100 points (excluding extra credit). After adding extra credit, and together with the remaining grade policies detailed below, your final score will determine your final letter grade, which will be assigned on the basis of the following letter grade distribution:

$\geq 93.00$	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	$\leq 59.99$	F

### How to Obtain an A+

An A+ is awarded to students who have earned an A for the class and have successfully completed an empirical research project ( $\pm 15$  pp.) no later than Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m. Students who wish to work on such a project should notify the instructor no later than Week 5.

### Academic Integrity

Learning, research, and scholarship depend upon an environment of academic integrity and honesty. This environment can be maintained only when all participants recognize the importance of upholding the highest ethical standards. All student work, including quizzes, exams, reports, and papers must be the work of the individual receiving credit. Academic dishonesty includes, for example, cheating on examinations or any assignment, plagiarism of any kind (including improper citation of sources), having someone else take an examination or complete an assignment for you (or doing this for someone else), or any activity in which you represent someone else's work as your own. Violations of academic integrity will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct. The impact on your grade will be determined by the individual instructor's policies. Please familiarize yourself with UCI's Academic Integrity Policy (<https://aisc.uci.edu/policies/academic-integrity/index.php>) and speak to your instructor if you have any questions about what is and is not allowed in this course.

### Re: Note Selling

Several commercial services have approached students regarding selling class notes/ study guides to their classmates. Please be advised that selling a faculty member's notes/ study guides individually or on behalf of one of these services using UCI e-mail, Canvas, or EEE violates both UCI information technology and UCI intellectual property policy. Selling the faculty member's notes/ study guides to fellow students in this course is not permitted. Violations of this policy are considered violations of the Code of Student Conduct and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Administrative Office, as a violation of course rules (academic misconduct). Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment for which the notes/ study guides are being sold, a reduction in your final course grade, a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities.

### Notifications via Canvas

The default notification settings for Canvas can be found online at <https://help.eee.uci.edu/canvas>. Students can customize these settings as they wish. Please note that these customizations apply to all courses in which you are enrolled. For instance, you cannot have messages forwarded for one course, but not for others. By default, you will receive messages ("conversations") and announcements forwarded to your UCI account; if you choose to modify this default setting, it is your responsibility to make sure you check Canvas regularly for communications.

## Course Outline

The weekly coverage is tentative and might change as it depends on the progress of the class. However, you must keep up with the assigned readings as indicated by the citations, which refer to the list of references.

Week	Topics and Readings
	<b>Part I: Contentious Politics and Political Science</b>
Week 1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 1/7:</b> Course Requirements <i>Readings:</i> class syllabus</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1/9:</b> The Principles of Political Science <i>Readings:</i> n.a.</li> </ul>
Week 2	<p><b>Conflict and Conflict Resolution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 1/14:</b> Political Institutions <i>Readings:</i> instructor's notes on Canvas (wkastart-DT-Masterfile-v06-Chapter-3.pdf, pp. 74-97)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1/16:</b> Violent and Nonviolent Coercion <i>Readings:</i> instructor's notes on Canvas (wkastart-DT-Masterfile-v06-Chapter-3.pdf, pp. 74-97)</li> </ul>
Week 3	<p><b>Analyzing Political Contention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 1/21:</b> Making Claims <i>Readings:</i> Tilly and Tarrow (2015, Chapter 1)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1/23:</b> How to Analyze Political Contention <i>Readings:</i> Tilly and Tarrow (2015, Chapter 2)</li> </ul>
	<b>Part II: The Consequences of Political Contention</b>
Week 4	<p><b>When the Stakes Are High: Political Campaigns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 1/28:</b> Social Movements <i>Readings:</i> Tilly and Tarrow (2015, Chapter 7)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1/30:</b> Lethal Conflict <i>Readings:</i> Tilly and Tarrow (2015, Chapter 8) <i>Assignment 1 is to be submitted in class no later than 12:30 p.m.</i></li> </ul>
Week 5	<p><b>The Logic of Nonviolent Resistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 2/4:</b> The Success of Nonviolent Resistance <i>Readings:</i> Chenoweth and Stephan (2011, Chapter 1)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 2/6:</b> Popular Mobilization <i>Readings:</i> Chenoweth and Stephan (2011, Chapter 2)</li> </ul>

(Course outline continued on the next page.)

Course outline (continued from the previous page):

Week	Topics and Readings
Week 6	<p><b>The Long-Term Implications of Political Contention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 2/11:</b> Democracy and Civil Peace <i>Readings:</i> Chenoweth and Stephan (2011, Chapter 8)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 2/13:</b> A New Research Agenda <i>Readings:</i> Davenport et al. (2019) <i>Assignment 2 is to be submitted in class no later than 12:30 p.m.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Part III: The Causes of Political Contention</b>	
Week 7	<p><b>When the Stakes Are High: Political Campaigns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 2/18:</b> The Democratic Civil Peace <i>Readings:</i> instructor's notes on Canvas (wkastart-DT-Masterfile-v06-Chapters-1-and-2.pdf)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 2/20:</b> Reverse Causation <i>Readings:</i> Chenoweth and Stephan (2011, Chapter 3)</li> </ul>
Week 8	<p><b>The Political Opportunity Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 2/25:</b> Democracy and Dictatorship <i>Readings:</i> Tilly and Tarrow (2015, Chapter 3)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 2/27:</b> Hybrid Regimes <i>Readings:</i> Tilly and Tarrow (2015, Chapter 4) <i>Assignment 3 is to be submitted in class no later than 12:30 p.m.</i></li> </ul>
Week 9	<p><b>Democracy and State Repression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 3/3:</b> The Domestic Democratic Peace <i>Readings:</i> Davenport (2007, Chapter 1)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 3/5:</b> Disaggregating Democracy and Political Contention <i>Readings:</i> Davenport (2007, Chapter 2)</li> </ul>
Week 10	<p><b>Mechanisms and Processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 3/10:</b> Contentious Interactions <i>Readings:</i> Tilly and Tarrow (2015, Chapter 5)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 3/12:</b> Mobilization and Demobilization <i>Readings:</i> Tilly and Tarrow (2015, Chapter 6) <i>Assignment 4 is to be submitted in class no later than 12:30 p.m.</i></li> </ul>

(Course outline continued on the next page.)

Course outline (continued from the previous page):

Week	Topics and Readings
	<b>Final Exam</b>
Week 11	<b>Final Exam</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Friday, 3/20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Social Science Lab (SSL), Room 145. Please do not forget to bring along your blue book!</b></li></ul> <i>Final Exam Material:</i> all readings and lectures from Weeks 1-10.

## List of References

Chenoweth, Erica and Maria J. Stephan (2011), *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*, New York, N.Y.: Columbia University Press.

Davenport, Christian (2007), *State Repression and the Domestic Democratic Peace*, New York, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press.

Davenport, Christian, Håvard Mokleiv Nygård, Hanne Fjelde, and David Armstrong (2019), “The Consequences of Contention: Understanding the Aftereffects of Political Conflict and Violence”, *Annual Review of Political Science* 22 (1), pp. 361–77, DOI: 10.1146/annurev-polisci-050317-064057.

Tilly, Charles and Sidney Tarrow (2015), *Contentious Politics*, 2nd ed., Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

**A note about the list of references:** The list of references presented above is primarily meant as a resource for you to use if you’d like to follow up on a given topic. Please note that students are only required to read the material indicated in the course outline presented above. For instance, you are only required to read Chapters 1 and 2 of Davenport (2007), not the whole book.

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