FRAGILE STATES
API6399 D - CAPSTONE SEMINAR
Christoph Zuercher
Carolyn McAskie
Fall, 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Class schedule:  Monday  08:30-11:30
Room  DMS 11143

Professor’s office hours:  Tuesday  3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Office  DMS 111666

E-mail:  Christoph.zuercher@uottawa.ca

Any questions sent by email should receive a response within two business days or during the following class if taken place within the 48 hours following receipt of the email. Note that the professor reserves the right not to answer an email if the level of language used is inadequate.

On virtual campus:  Yes

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Depending of the criteria applied between one quarter and one half of all states are so called fragile states. In such states, central government do not exert effective control over their own territory and are unable or unwilling to assure the provision of vital services to significant parts of its territory. Governments of such states suffer from a lack of legitimacy, and violent conflict is a reality or a great risk.

Fragile states cause great harm to their populations, and are a challenge to global governance and global security: Fragile states often suffer from violence within their territories. This violence may spill over to neighboring territories and destabilize the whole region; fragile
states also become a hub for clandestine, illegal economic activities. Criminal entrepreneurs may use such territories for their activities. Drug cultivation, drug trafficking, and smuggling of weapons often occur in failed states, causing negative externalities in other states; finally, weak and failed states also have gained a notorious reputation as safe havens of terrorists, as the examples of Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, Pakistan's Eastern Provinces, or the Philippines show.

It is a distinct feature of global politics at the beginning of the 21st century that the international community engages more often and more robust in state building missions than ever before in history. Shifting international norms, the high costs of state failure, and the risks that fragile states pose to global security add up to sharply falling opportunity costs for external involvement. This explains the rise in external involvement in what have been, until recently, domestic affairs in so called fragile states. Fragile states hence become more and more addresses of global governance.

But what can be done about fragile states? How can global politics influence political processes in fragile or collapsed states in such a way as to limit the threats that stem from such regions?

**GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Students gain a theoretical and analytical understanding of symptoms and causes of state fragility
- Students are able to critically evaluate the threats that emerge from state failure
- Students are familiar with the various policy responses to fragile states by international organizations, nation states, and non government organizations
- Students’ analytical skills are based on a theoretical understanding of what modern states are, what they do, and what they are normatively supposed to do
- Students are familiar with commonly used data sets for measuring state fragility; they are aware of the conceptual and technical difficulties involved in measuring state capacities
- Students are familiar with recent strategies and programs of major international organizations and donors towards fragile state


**ASSESSMENT METHODS**

*Student’s class presentation (30%)*

This is a 30 minutes presentation accompanied by a short report to be distributed on the day of the presentation (5 – max. 10 pages). Student’s class presentations and the associated paper will be completed in groups, and scheduled over the course of the semester. The list of topics can be found at the end of this document.

*Year-End Essay / Research paper (45%)*

The research paper will be 7500 words in length maximum on a topic of the student’s choice. Topics must be confirmed with the professor. The research paper must be an original piece of work that has never been submitted in any other course at the University of Ottawa or elsewhere. A research paper that does not meet these criteria will receive a mark of zero (0%). The research paper is due on November 23. Students are encouraged to use at least one of the data sets introduced in session 5.

*Participation (25 %)*

Active participation involves: Students regularly attend courses; they prepare the required readings and are able to summarize the major points of assigned texts; they participate in discussions in class, and demonstrate that they can apply concepts and theories to the topic under discussion.

*Special Needs, or Inability to Complete Assignments on Dates Indicated*

If the student has special needs that require particular arrangement or which will make it difficult to complete assignments or examinations on the dates indicated, it is the student’s responsibility to seek the appropriate university approval and advise the professor at the beginning of the term.

**Components of Final Mark**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation format</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students Class Presentation</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>Sessions 4 - 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-End Essay / Research Paper</td>
<td>45 %</td>
<td>December 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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Policy on language quality and late submissions

Class attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course.

You will also be judged on your writing abilities. It is recommended to take the appropriate measures to avoid mistakes. You will be penalized between 5% to 15%, to the professor’s discretion.

Late submissions are not tolerated. Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations deemed as such by the professor. There will be a penalty for late submissions. University regulations require all absences from exams and all late submissions due to illness to be supported by a medical certificate. The Faculty reserves the right to accept or reject the reason put forth if it is not medical. Reasons such as travel, work and errors made while reading the exam schedule are not usually accepted.

In the event of an illness or related complications, only the counseling service and the campus clinic (located at 100 Marie-Curie) may issue valid certificates to justify a delay or absence.

Each day of late submission results in a penalty of 5% (weekends not excluded). This also applies to assignments sent by email, and in this case, the time of receipt of the email by the recipient is guarantor of the time of delivery.

We advise you to notify your professor as soon as possible if a religious holiday or event forces your absence during an evaluation.

SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise indicated journal articles are available from the U of Ottawa library e-journal website:
http://sfx.scholarsportal.info/ottawa/azlist

Book sections are on reserve, available from the library

There is a Virtual Campus Black Board for this course. You will find there additional materials and information. I will use Black Board to manage this course. Students must have access to Black Board.
1) September 7: No Class (Labor Day)

2) September 14: Welcome; Introduction; Plan of the Seminar

Readings:


3) September 21: Defining States and State Functions

Readings:


Recommended:


4) **September 28: Fragile States**

Readings:


Guest Speaker: Clare Lockhart (TBC)

Student’s presentation 1: Security: DDR SSR Policing

5) **October 5: Measuring State Fragility**

**Guest speaker** David Carment, Carleton (TBC)

Readings:

Data Sets & Resources

Freedom House:
http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=5

Governance Matters V

Human Development Indicators:

Polity IV
http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/polity/

Transparency International
http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi

Political Instability Task Force
http://globalpolicy.gmu.edu/pitf/

Fund for Peace: Failed States Index
http://www.fundforpeace.org

Country Indicators for Foreign Policy
http://www.carleton.ca/cifp/

6) October 12: Inside Fragile States

Readings:


**Documentary:** Afghanistan between hope and fear, CBS (90 min?)

**Guest Speaker from the UN (tbc)**

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7) **October 19: Symptoms and Causes of Fragile States**

**Readings:**


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**Student's presentation 2: Security: Democratic Governance: Elections & Democracy promotion**

Guest Speaker from the UN (tbc)

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8) **October 26: Symptoms and Causes of Fragile States**


Student’s presentation 3: Economy: Aid, Reconstruction, Macro-Economic Stability

Carolyn Mc Askie on Development and Donor Policies

9) November 2: Fixing Fragility? Problems, Actors, Tools

Readings:


Student’s presentation 4: Civil Society, State Society Relations

10) November 9: Fixing Fragility? Problems, Actors, Tools II

Readings:


Students presentation 5: DfID

**11) November 16: Global Governance and Fragile States**

Readings: To be added


Carolyn McAskie on UN system and Peacebuilding

Student’s presentation 6: OECD-DAC

**12) November 23: Global Governance and Fragile States II**

Readings:


Student’s presentation 7: CIDA

**Guest speaker** Michael Koros, CIDA (Team Leader, and Senior Analyst, Peace, Conflict and State Resilience Policy Development Division, Strategic Policy and Performance Branch)

Carolyn Mc Askie on donor policies
13) November 30: Global Governance and Fragile States III / Final thoughts

Guest speaker from the World Bank (tbc)
Student’s presentation 8: USAID