Zachariah Mampilly  
Email address: zamampilly@vassar.edu  
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00 to 4:00 or by appt. (Rockefeller 408)

This seminar will explore contemporary civil wars from a variety of different angles and approaches. We will cover a wide selection of topics related to the causes and dynamics of civil conflicts as well as the organization and behavior of rebel organizations. The readings are drawn from works produced by rebel theorists, academics, policy makers and journalists.

The course will be graded on a 25-25-50 basis, with a reading response worth 25%, a substantive research paper worth 50%, and class attendance and participation worth 25%. You are expected to attend all lectures and films and participate in the discussion.

Required Texts:


Other sources:

We will be reading articles or book chapters that I have not asked you to buy the entire book or journal issue. For these, I will scan a copy and make it available to you as a pdf on Moodle.

September 6:

**Course Introduction:** Why Study Civil Wars?

September 13:

**Theories of Insurgency**


September 20:

**Theoretical Approaches**


September 27:

**Natural Resources and Financial Incentives**


October 4:

**Shadow Networks**

Carolyn Nordstrom. Selection from *Global Outlaws*.


October 11:

**Fiction**


Film to be announced

**READING RESPONSE DUE IN CLASS**

**FALL BREAK: October 14th – 23rd**

October 25:


November 1:

**Rebel Recruitment and Behavior**


Cynthia Mahmood. 1996. *Fighting for Faith and Nation: Dialogues with Sikh Militants*. Chapter
7. “Three Fighters”.

November 8:

**Gender**

Special Guest: Nimmi Gowrinathan


Adele Ann Balasingham. Selection from *Women Fighters of Liberation Tigers*.


November 15:

**Violence**

Stathis Kalyvas. 2006. Selection from *The Logic of Violence in Civil Wars*.


November 22:

**Armed Group Governance**

Zachariah Mampilly, 2011. Selection from *Rebel Rulers*.

November 29:

**Humanitarianism**

Michael Barnett. 2011. Selection from *Empire of Humanity*.

December 6:

**Counterinsurgency**
David Kilcullen. 2010. Selection from Counterinsurgency.


FINAL PAPER DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 5:00PM