Rebels in Civil Wars
PLSC # 387

Ana Arjona
Department of Political Science
Yale University
Spring 2010
ana.arjona@yale.edu
203-432-3412

Tuesday 9:20 – 11:10
Location: RZK 102
Office hours: Tuesday 2:00-4:00
34 Hillhouse Ave, Luce Hall, Room 115

Course description
This seminar explores the origins and behavior of non-state armed groups fighting in civil wars—rebels, insurgents, and militias. The course addresses the following questions: What are the origins of rebel groups? How are they internally organized? How do they recruit new members? How do they behave towards the civilian populations they interact with? When, and why, do they use violence against non-combatants? When do they provide public goods and services to civilian populations? What are the broader implications of these behaviors on the dynamics of armed conflict? We approach these questions through both theoretical and empirical pieces (including case studies, comparative analyses, and human rights reports). The readings describe and explain cases drawn from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Most weeks we look at cases from different continents; occasionally, we focus on one single region. The final week of the course will be devoted to discussing the organization and behavior of insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will rely on the discussions of previous classes to critically examine claims about war rebel behavior and war dynamics in these two cases.

Eligibility for enrollment
Students must have prior coursework in Political Science.

Requirements
• Attendance and participation in the discussion are mandatory. Students will send a comment or question (1 paragraph) based on the readings every week (by 7:00 pm on Monday) (15%).
• Each student will present to the class a short critical assessment of the readings once in the semester (20%).
• Each student will write a short essay (8-10 pages) on a particular rebel group (25%). You may write about one of the cases discussed in class, or one of your own choosing with the instructor’s approval. This essay can be the basis for your final paper; however, you can also write on an armed group that you do not focus on in your paper. The essay is due in class on March 2 (25%).
• Each student will write a final paper (15-20 pages) (40%). The instructor will suggest a few topics, but students can propose a different one. The papers may discuss one or several aspects of a particular rebel group; a comparative analysis of a set of rebel groups; a theoretical or empirical puzzle; or present a critical literature review on a research question about rebel groups. All topics for the final papers must have been discussed with the instructor by March 23. The paper is due by email on Friday, April 23.
Readings
We will read book chapters, journal articles, and human rights reports. You are only expected to buy Jeremy Weinstein’s *Inside Rebellion* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), which is available at Labyrinth Books. We will start using Weinstein’s book on February 9, so you have time if you prefer to order it online. All other materials are available online in the class server at https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal.

COURSE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week 1: January 12
Organizational Meeting and Introduction to Course
No readings for this class. We will go over the syllabus.

Week 2: January 19
The origins of rebel groups I: Theory
- Sambanis, Nicholas and Havard Hegre 2006. “Sensitivity Analysis of Empirical Results on Civil War Onset.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 50, No. 4, 508-535. (Note: skip the technical details, and focus on the results and implications for the literature).

Week 3: January 26
The origins of rebel groups II: Cases in Central and South America

II. The internal organization of rebels
Week 4: February 2
Warfare

**Week 5: February 9**

**Internal dynamics I: Theory and empirics**
- Jeremy Weinstein, *Inside Rebellion*. Introduction and chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-95)

**Week 6: February 16**

**Internal dynamics II: Cases in Africa**

**Week 7: February 23**

**Recruitment I: The Peasant Revolution Literature**

**Week 8: March 2**

*SHORT ESSAY DUE TODAY IN CLASS*

**Recruitment II: The Civil War Literature**
Week 9: March 23
Recruitment of Women and Children
LAST WEEK TO HAVE TOPIC OF FINAL PAPER APPROVED BY THE INSTRUCTOR


III. Rebel behavior towards civilians
Week 10: March 30
Violence against non-combatants


Recommended:

Week 11: April 6
Rebel Governance: Theoretical approaches


Week 12: April 13
Rebel Governance: Case studies

- Zachariah Mampilly, “Building a New Sudan: The Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A)”. Unpublished book manuscript.
Recommended:

Week 13: April 20
Resistance against the rebels

*FINAL PAPER DUE BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, APRIL 30
SENIOR ESSAY DUE BY EMAIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 26*