Political Science (PSCI) 5650
Ethnic Politics
Spring 2019

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There is a Canvas site for this course where copies of documents will be placed (e.g. the syllabus and some relevant readings).

I. Goals and Objectives of the Course:

This course takes up three questions: What is ethnicity and when is it politically important? What is the relationship between ethnic politics and political behavior, in particular ethnic voting and political violence? What “solutions” exist to help mitigate the likelihood of the incidence of recurrence of ethnic violence (e.g. political institutions, partitions, and third-party intervention)? This course is primarily designed to provide both a broad overview of major theoretical approaches to the study of ethnic politics and ethnic conflict in the field of comparative politics (i.e. the focus of this course will not be on US politics, but there is a good deal of overlap between the fields).

One of the goals of this course is to promote the analytical skills of the student. This involves not only knowing some basic facts about various ethnic conflicts the world but also exposure to the practice of conducting critical analysis (such as what appears in a typical political science journal article). In this class, you will be expected to write a paper that can be submitted as a conference proposal. I also encourage collaboration on the final project, but this is limited to two authors.

II. Texts: There are two required texts for this course:

Hutchinson, John and Anthony D. Smith (eds.). 1996. Ethnicity. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. (Referred to in the syllabus as the Ethnicity Reader) (this is an edited book of classic primary readings in the field)

Jesse, Neal and Kristen Williams (2011) Ethnic Conflict: A systematic approach to cases of conflict  Sage (this book also includes some cases that we will be examining during the course of the term)

In addition, there will be readings that you either will be required to download from the library, or there will be a link provided, or the piece will be available on Canvas (as indicated)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Your grade in this course will be based on a take-home final exam (worth 200 points), article reaction papers (worth a total of 100 points) and two class participations (one article summary and one country briefing, worth 60 points total, 30 points apiece), a research project (worth 200 points) and presentation (worth 50 points), with the final 40 points determined by class participation. The total number of points for this course is 650. The writing assignments are intended to sharpen your analytical skills and give you some experience with the kind of analysis that you will be required to do in your other courses, on your comprehensive exams (for Ph.D. students), and in the kind of research and writing you will do as a practicing political scientist. Further the country/conflict briefings are meant to provide you with some real substantive knowledge about real cases in the world.
A. Exam: (200 points)
There will be a take-home final exam that will consist of essay questions. You are free to use any books, notes, or journal articles that you have, but you are not to confer with other students on the test questions. Evidence of collaboration with other students or anyone else will be treated as an instance of cheating and dealt with according to University rules on cheating. You will receive a grade of "0" for the exam and an "F" for the course. The exam will be distributed during the last class week (April 30) and will be due May 7 by 11:59 pm. There is a 10-point penalty for each day you are late turning in an exam.

B. Reaction Papers: (total 100 points, 20 points apiece)
Each of you will write at least five weekly papers that responds to a question/promp that I provide. This question will be provided for the following class session.

C. Article presentation (30 points)
Beginning on February 5, one student will prepare a two-page handout (single- or double-spaced) on one assigned paper to present, and students will be assigned article presentations for an article every week after. Thus, each of you will do one summary presentation of an article during the course of the term. Email me your handout by noon on the Monday prior to our Tuesday evening meeting. This will be distributed to all students prior to the class meeting. (failure to do so will result in a “0” for the assignment).

Your handout should follow the following format:

1. Topic
   Summarize the topic of the paper as concisely as possible. Try to make main independent and dependent variables conspicuous. E.g., “The impact of electoral systems on ethnic conflict”

2. Previous work
   List one or few key articles or books on which the article builds its argument.

3. Summarize the main findings of the article.

4. Data
   Describe the cases, observations, and variables (if that is applicable, some of the readings are not primarily empirical)

5. Comments
   Subject the piece to a critique. Point out positives and negatives about the article. If you can find a major problem in the article and offer a constructive solution, that will be the best thing to do. The next best thing would be to discuss a major problem without offering a solution or to point out a not-so-major problem while presenting a solution. If you cannot do any of those, discuss minor problems or nice things about the article.

D. Country/Conflict Briefing (on the last two class sessions) (30 points)—More on this later

E. Research Project: (200 points)
Over the course of the semester, you should select one of the topics in the course (or another topic in comparative politics) and develop a research project that should culminate in a conference paper, publication, and/or thesis/dissertation. This review will be completed in two stages. The first installment should be a research statement with a literature review: you will present detailed problem statement that clarifies the research puzzle at the center of your project. This statement should be in a form that makes it
clear that testable hypotheses can be derived from it. It should be on the order of an extended abstract of a journal article. In order to demonstrate how this research puzzle is grounded in existing research, you should offer in support of the problem statement detailed summaries (one page each) on each of **seven refereed journal articles** on the topic you have chosen. For this installment, confine yourself to refereed journal articles; do not use books, chapters in edited books, government reports, or any other type of resource. Those sources can be used in the final draft, but the purpose of the first installment is to get you to delve into the journal literature on your subject. Each summary should be preceded by a complete citation of the relevant journal article, in the style format of the *American Political Science Review*. This installment is due **Tuesday, March 5**.

The final draft should include 1) the research problem statement (revised and expanded from the first draft), 2) a detailed **literature review**, which is an analytical essay that explains how this body of works defines the parameters of research program in comparative politics in which your research project is grounded, and 3) your research design, which includes a theoretical framework (derived from the literature) from which you derive one or more testable hypotheses and then specify what data would be required to test these hypotheses;4) your results and conclusions. The final draft is due **Friday May 10 by 5:00 pm (electronically via email to me)**.

**F. Oral Presentation of your research project:** (50 points)
You will be required to present your research design in a “public forum”—I will ask some of your other fellow graduate students to attend. I will set up a special session (depending on your schedules) where you will be asked to present your research designs orally. Each of you will have 10-12 minutes to present (in a “panel” of 5) to be followed by “discussion” period. Each paper will be assigned a “discussant” who will be responsible for commenting on the paper and making constructive suggestions for improvement. You will be evaluated by your peers (including other audience members) and the instructor and the format will be similar to what you would find at a typical political science conference.

**G. Class Participation:** (40 points- The quality of your class participation will be assessed both by the instructor and your peers. I pay particular attention to the quality of your comments, not just the quantity. Further, attendance does matter – if you are not in attendance, you are not participating.

Your final grade will be based a final percentage based on a denominator of **650 points**

**Remember:**
1. The research project, oral presentation, and reaction paper assignments assignment are not optional; you will receive a grade of “F” for the course if you do not turn in any one of the major paper assignments, regardless of your score on the exam.
2. You may NOT turn in an identical paper that you have done in another class this semester or any previous semester. If you do, that will be counted as an instance of plagiarism, and you will receive a grade of “F” for the course and be referred to the appropriate University authorities.
3. Collaboration with academic peers is an increasingly important way to get published. Thus, I encourage collaboration on the final project, but only up to a maximum of two authors. Your final grade will be assessed individually, however.
4. Your paper must demonstrate that you have read multiple scholarly articles from several different **refereed scholarly** journals (not news magazines, government reports, web sites), and you must use the appropriate citation and bibliographic format (APSA style)
5. Your paper must be typed, double-spaced, with no more than one-inch margins on all four sides and no larger than 12-point type. You must turn in an electronic copy (by email) in MS Word, word perfect, or pdf format.
6. You may NOT change topics after you turn in the first installment. If you decide you cannot complete the paper you originally proposed, see me. To change topics you will have to do the first installment
for your new topic before you turn in your final draft.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- March 5  Research Problem and literature review due
- May 10   (Friday) Final Draft of Research Design due
- April 30  Take-Home Final distributed
- May 7    Take Home Final Due
- Final Presentation: TBA (during finals week)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

The course outline that follows delineates in sequence the major themes addressed in the course and the assigned readings for each theme. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and come to class prepared to discuss them. Class participation counts 10% of your grade, and informed discussion requires careful reading of the assignments.

**PART I: Ethnic Identity and its formation**

**January 15:** Introduction to the course (What is this course about?)
Understanding the Research Process
Exploring research and country/conflict interests

**January 22:**

What is ethnicity and nationalism?
Jesse and Williams pp 1-4
*Ethnicity Reader,* Introduction, p. 3-7 only.
*Ethnicity Reader,* Chapter 2 (Schmerhorn),
*Ethnicity Reader,* Chapter 3 (Nash).
*Ethnicity Reader,* Chapter 11 (Conner), p. 69-75.

**January 29**

Contending approaches to ethnicity: Primordialism vs Constructivism1:
Jesse and Williams pp 10-30
*Ethnicity Reader,* “Introduction: Approaches to Ethnicity,” p. 7-10 only.
*Ethnicity Reader,* Chapter 5 (Weber)
*Ethnicity Reader,* Chapter 6 (Geertz)
*Ethnicity Reader,* Chapter 7 (Eller and Coughlan)
*Ethnicity Reader,* Chapter 12 (Barth)


**February 5** Where do identities come from? Modernization and ethnicity
Shaheen Mozaffar, James Scarritt and Galaich 2003 “Electoral Institutions, Ethnopolitical Cleavages, and Party Systems in Africa’s Emerging Democracies” American Political Science Review (Presentation 1)

February 12 Violence and Identity


PART II: Ethnic Political Behavior—Explaining Conflict and Voting

February 19: Factors that affect ethnic conflict

- Jesse and Williams pp. 31-92

February 26 Rationalist explanations for ethnic conflict

- Ethnicity Reader Chapter 15 (Hechter)

NO CLASS MARCH 5 (will be out of country)

SPRING BREAK MARCH 11-15 (no class)
March 19  Ethnicity, Political Violence and Civil War

March 26 Ethnic Voting and Ethnic Parties
• Kanchan Chandra What is an Ethnic Party? Party Politics 17(2) 151-169.

Part III: Containing Ethnic Conflict
April 9: Institutional solutions to conflict? Consociationalism and its critique

Introduction to institutions

Consociationalism
• Paul Brass 1991. “Ethnic Conflict in Multiethnic Societies: The Consociational Solution and Its Critics” Ethnicity and Nationalism (on Canvas)
April 16: Partition and Third Party Intervention


April 23—Country presentations

April 30—Country presentations

FINAL PRESENTATIONS (TBA)