POL 443/2322H(F)
DEMOCRACY AND ETHNIC CONFLICT
Tuesdays 10:00am-12:00 pm (SS1086 and online)

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Office hours: Wednesday 1-2pm (online)

Course objectives - learning outcomes
This course is designed to provide specialized familiarization with a core set of concepts and readings on the politics of ethnicity. It is intended for students at the upper undergraduate and graduate levels who are interested in deepening their understanding of why ethnicity is an important cleavage in many societies, when it is mobilized, and how it is best managed in democratic contexts. The focus is mostly on democratization and how it impacts ethnic conflict. The course does not primarily emphasize debates and mobilization on ethnicity in advanced democracies, although some of the discussions are relevant. While it does not require previous knowledge of such concepts and relevant literature, it assumes that students are familiar with concepts and approaches in comparative politics more broadly.

Course Format

Due to the particular circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, this seminar is being offered as a hybrid in-person/online course. There is continued emphasis on engagement and discussion to master the reading materials and concepts introduced in the course. We are using technology to enhance our ability to keep all students engaged and the discussion flowing. Nevertheless, with public health restrictions and the long-hours of online engagement for those connecting, I will introducing a variety of formats in order to stimulate different ways of learning and avoid fatigue caused by the course’s limitations. While discussion will remain the main format, I will some different elements that are indicated in the syllabus and that will be detailed in Quercus.

Assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theory Reflection Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>2500 words max</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Feedback and Engagement</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper*</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Dec. 9</td>
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*Undergraduate Papers: 6,000 words max.
*Graduate Papers: 9,000 words max.

Turnitin
Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com (through Quercus) for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Readings

1. Sept. 15: Introduction to the course

PART I: Thinking about Ethnic Conflict and Violence

2. Sept. 22: What is Ethnicity and why it matters

Reflect and identify points for discussion—online sheet; 30 minutes
In class Discussion of those points: up to 30 mn
Discussion of readings: 1 hour


3. Sept. 29 Causes of ethnic mobilization: grievances vs opportunism

Listen to TED TALK, discuss thoughts in relation to readings (online): 45 mn
TED TALK: Severine Autesserre
https://www.ted.com/talks/severine_autesserre_to_solve_mass_violence_look_to_local_s#t-709570
In class discussion of readings: 1 hour; TED talk summary and disc.: 15 minutes


4. Oct. 6 Is religious conflict ideologically motivated?

In class discussion:


5. **Oct. 13 Ethnic Civil War**

   In class discussion:

   Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.” *American Political Science Review*, vol. 97, no. 1, Feb. 2003, pp. 75–90,


6. **Oct. 20 Nationalists and secessionist goals**

   In class discussion:


7. **Oct. 27 Violence and conflict: Are they different?**

   ***Feedback Paper due and discussion***

   Post main points of your papers; Grad students to summarize and present main points in class for discussion: 15 minutes

   Discussion the reading: 45 minutes


8. **Nov. 3 Democratization and violent mobilization**

   In class discussion of readings: 1 hour; TED talk summary and disc.: 15 minutes

   **Listen to TED TALK, discuss thoughts in relation to readings (online): 45 mn**

   **TED TALK: Stefan Wolff**

   [https://www.ted.com/talks/stefan_wolff_the_path_to_ending_ethnic_conflicts?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/stefan_wolff_the_path_to_ending_ethnic_conflicts?language=en)


****NOVEMBER 9-13: Fall Break****

9. **Nov 17 Constitutions and ethnic accommodation**

In class discussion:


10. **Nov 24 Parties, ethnicity and conflict**

In class discussion:


11. **Dec 1 International instruments for the protection of ethnic rights**


Group debate online
Summary in class: 30-40 mn.

No readings