

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

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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 be 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 include some different elements that are indicated in the syllabus and that will be detailed in Quercus.

Assignments

Theory Reflection Paper 2500 words max	20%	Oct. 27
Case Feedback and Engagement	15%	ongoing
Participation	20%	ongoing
Research Paper*	45%	Dec. 9

*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

Kanchan Chandra, "What Is Ethnic Identity and Does It Matter?," *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (2006).

Brubaker, Rogers, and Frederick Cooper. "Beyond "Identity"." *Theory and Society* 29, no. 1 (2000): 1-47

Anderson, B. (1991). "Introduction". *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London and New York : Verso

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_locals#t-709570
In class discussion of readings: 1 hour; TED talk summary and disc.: 15 minutes

Lake and Rothchild. (1996). Containing fear: The origins and management of ethnic conflict. *International Security*. 21 (fall): 41-75

Kaufman, Stuart J. Symbolic Politics or Rational Choice? Testing Theories of Extreme Ethnic Violence. *International Security*, vol. 30, no. 4, 2006, pp. 45-86

4. Oct. 6 Is religious conflict ideologically motivated?

In class discussion:

Brubaker, Rogers. "Religious Dimensions of Political Conflict and Violence." *Sociological Theory* 33, no. 1 (2015): 1-19

Selengut, Charles *Sacred Fury: Understanding Religious Violence* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017): Introduction pp 1-12; chap. 2, pp. 49-91; chap. 4, pp. 141-177.

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,

Sambanis, Nicholas. "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?: A Theoretical and Empirical Inquiry (Part 1)." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, vol. 45, no. 3, June 2001, pp. 259–282,

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. "Why do Ethnic Groups Rebel?: New Data and Analysis." *World Politics*, vol. 62, no. 1, 2010, pp. 87-119.

6. Oct. 20 Nationalists and secessionist goals

In class discussion:

Anderson, Benedict R. O. G. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. , 2006, Chap. 7, "The Last Wave", pp. 113-140; Chap. 10, "Census, Map, Museum." pp. 163-186;

Brubaker, R. (1996). *Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1. "Rethinking nationhood: nation as institutionalized form, practical category, contingent event"

Sambanis, Nicholas, and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. What's in a Line? Is Partition a Solution to Civil War? *International Security*, vol. 34, no. 2, 2009, pp. 82-118.

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

Brubaker, Rogers, and David D. Laitin. "Ethnic and Nationalist Violence." *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol. 24, 1998, pp. 423–452.

8. Nov. 3 Democratization and violent mobilization

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

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

Beissinger, M. R. (2008). A new look at ethnicity and democratization. *Journal of Democracy*, 19(3), 85-97.

Chirrot, D. (2009). Does Democracy Work in Deeply Divided Societies? In Z. Barany & R. Moser (Eds.), *Is Democracy Exportable?* (pp. 85-109). Cambridge: Cambridge University

Snyder, J. L. (2000). *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*. New York ; London: Norton, chap. 1 (pp. 15-42), chap. 2, (pp. 45-92).

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

9. Nov 17 Constitutions and ethnic accommodation

In class discussion:

Hale, H. E. (2004). "Divided We Stand: Institutional Sources of Ethnofederal State Survival and Collapse". *World Politics*. 56(2). 165-193.

Roeder, Philip G. "Ethnofederalism and the Mismanagement of Conflicting Nationalisms." *Regional & Federal Studies*, vol. 19, no. 2, May 2009, pp. 203-219

Brendan O'Leary and John McGarry, "The Politics of Accommodation and Integration in Democratic States," in Choudhry, Sujit (ed). *Constitutional Design for Divided Societies: Integration or Accommodation?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

10. Nov 24 Parties, ethnicity and conflict

In class discussion:

Chandra, K. (2005). Ethnic parties and democratic stability. *Perspectives on Politics*, 3(2), 235-52

Posner, D. N. (2007). Regime change and ethnic cleavages in Africa. *Comparative Political Studies*, 40(11), 1302-1327.

Reilly, B. (2006). Political engineering and party politics in conflict-prone societies. *Democratization*, 13(5), 811-827.

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

In class discussion:

Kymlicka, Will. *Multicultural Odysseys: Navigating the New International Politics of Diversity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. Introduction, pp. 3-26; chap. 6, pp. 173-246; chap. 7, pp. 247-294.

12. Dec 8. Debate on Democracy and Ethnic Conflict

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

No readings