Introduction

Genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Anti-Muslim pogroms in India in 1992. State disintegration by ethnic war in Yugoslavia. Separatist rebellion in Aceh, Indonesia until 2005. Race riots in Los Angeles in 1992. Whether this is a new trend, or whether it was simply masked during the Cold War period, violent ethnic conflict is a central problem in world politics and a central concern in political science.

This course will introduce you to the systematic study of ethnic violence, to the major concepts in conflict studies, to the main approaches to studying conflict, and to major episodes of ethnic violence around the world. The class will focus heavily on in-depth discussion and analysis of the readings, and on high-caliber academic writing. As such, extensive preparation is a necessity for doing well in this course. We will talk in considerable detail about this in class, but do feel free to come by my office early and often to discuss any class assignments, readings, etc.

Course Requirements

There will be a final take-home exam in this class. It will be worth 30% of your grade. You will also write a substantial research paper of about 8,000 words (25 or so pages), worth 40%. The remaining 30% comes from class participation, and will be weighed in light of the quality and consistency of your contributions to discussions and of your presentation of readings throughout the semester. In the unfortunate event that large numbers come to class unprepared I reserve the right to unannounced quizzes and/or writing exercises. These, if necessary, will accumulate points from all three other components.

This course will include substantial training and preparation for writing original research papers. About an hour each week, usually the second hour each Tuesday meeting, will be devoted to various aspects of writing good research papers—the kind that will get you accepted into very good graduate programs, land you jobs with a political science major you doubted were possible, and turn you into the golden children of all subsequent professors.

This paper will demand much of you—almost certainly more than you have yet put into any research paper. And you will start working on it immediately, working on and writing its parts for the entire semester. But I will be there along the way, helping you figure out an original and
interesting research question, do the work to develop an original theoretical argument to explain some puzzling aspect of ethnic politics, to collect data, analyze the data and write a paper that will make most PhD students in our department jealous. When you are finished, you will no longer need to explain to people what you do in political science courses. You will simply hand them a copy of the paper and that will do it.

Please reacquaint yourself with the UF Student Honor Code, in particular the sections on plagiarism and cheating. Any violation of the Honor Code in class assignments will result in a failing grade for the course and referral to the Judicial Affairs office.

Should you have any needs with which Disability Resources may be helpful, please contact them early in the semester and bring me any necessary paperwork. I will do my best to accommodate any such needs quickly.

**Required Readings**

Scott Straus, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power and War in Rwanda*


These books are available at local bookstores and online. There are also a number of required articles or chapters listed below for specific days. We will have a short workshop during the first two weeks on locating and accessing these articles via the UF library web page. Book chapters will generally be distributed by email the week before we discuss them. You are expected to download and print these article and to have them in class on the days in which we discuss them. Similarly, you should bring the books for particular days to class when we discuss them.

**What is Ethnic Conflict? Why do People Mobilize Along Ethnic or Religious Lines?**

January 7: Course Introduction.

- Baglione, Chapter 1.
- Writing Workshop.

January 9:


January 14:

Writing Workshop: Research questions. Baglione, Chapter 2

January 16:

January 21: RESEARCH QUESTIONS DUE
Writing Workshop: Situating your question in a Research Program. Baglione, Chapter 3.

The Causes of Ethnic and Nationalist Violence

Macro Causes.

January 23:

January 28:
Writing Workshop: The Literature Review. Baglione, Chapter 4.

January 30:
No class. I am in London presenting material from my book manuscript (some of which you will read later in the semester).

Micro Causes

February 4: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
Writing Workshop: Crafting Theoretical Arguments. Baglione, Chapter 5.

February 6:


**Focused Topics in the Study of Ethnic Violence**

**Causes of Genocide in Rwanda.**

February 11:

February 13:
• Straus, Chapters 2 and 3.

February 18: **PRELIMINARY LITERATURE REVIEW DUE.**
• Straus, Chapters 4-6.
• Writing Workshop: Data Analysis and Assessment. Baglione, Chapter 8.

February 20:
• Straus Chapters 7, 8, and Conclusion.

**Scaling Ethnicity Up to the State Level: Nationalism, Ethnicity and War**

February 25:
• Wimmer, Chapters 1-2.

February 27: **WORKING ARGUMENT (MODEL) AND HYPOTHESIS/ES DUE**
• Wimmer, Chapter 3

March 1-8: Spring Break. Do not plan on killing more than the usual number of brain cells—you will need them in the next 6 weeks.

March 11: **RESEARCH DESIGN DUE**
• Wimmer, Chapters 4-5
• Writing Workshop: the importance of editing and revision. Baglione Chapter 6.

March 13:
• Wimmer, Chapters 6 & 7.
Political Institutions and Ethnic Politics.

March 18:
- Smith, “Separatist Conflict in the Former Soviet Union and Beyond: How Different Was Communism?” *World Politics* April 2013.
- Roeder, Philip & and Donald Rothchild, Chapter 2 from *Sustainable Peace: Power and Democracy After Civil Wars*.
- Writing Workshop.

March 20:

Ethnic Riots.

March 25:
- Wilkinson, chapter 1 from *Votes and Violence*.
- Writing Workshop.

March 27:

Secession Conflicts

April 1: **ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT SECTION DUE**
- Monica Duffy Toft (2002) Indivisible territory, geographic concentration, and ethnic war, Security Studies, 12:2, 82-119,
- Smith, Benjamin, *History and Rebellion*, chapter 1.
- Writing Workshop.

April 3:

April 8:
- Writing workshop.
April 10: Research presentations

April 15: Research presentations

April 17: Research presentations

April 22: Research presentations and course conclusion.

April 25: FINAL PAPER DUE. TAKE-HOME EXAM DISTRIBUTED BY EMAIL; DUE APRIL 30 BY NOON TO THE COURSE PAGE AT TURNITIN.COM. NO EXCEPTIONS OTHER THAN DOCUMENTED EMERGENCIES SUCH AS ALIEN ABDUCTION.