

# CPO 4721 The Politics of Ethnic Conflict

Spring 2014 Section 06G6

T 5-6 Anderson 134/R6 Anderson 134

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## 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*

Lisa Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure and Methods* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2011)

Andreas Wimmer, *Waves of War: Nationalism, State Formation and Ethnic Exclusion in the Modern World*

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.

- Paul Brass, "Development of an Institutionalized Riot System in Meerut City, 1961-1982," *Economic and Political Weekly* October 30, 2004.
- Alan Lightman, "A Sense of the Mysterious," *Daedalus* Fall 2003, 5-21.
- Baglione, Chapter 1.
- Writing Workshop.

January 9:

- Rogers Brubaker and David Laitin, "Ethnic and Nationalist Violence," *Annual Reviews in Sociology*, 24 (1998).

January 14:

- Clifford Geertz, “The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States,” from C. Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*, pp. 255-310.
- Writing Workshop: Research questions. Baglione, Chapter 2

January 16:

- Robert H. Bates, “Modernization, Ethnic Competition and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa,” in Donald Rothchild and Victor Olorunsola, *State Versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas* (Boulder: Westview, 1983), pp.152-171.

January 21: **RESEARCH QUESTIONS DUE**

- Ashutosh Varshney, “Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Rationality,” *Perspectives on Politics*, 1, 1: 85-99.
- Henry Hale, “Explaining Ethnicity,” *Comparative Political Studies* 37, 4 (May 2004): 458-85.
- Writing Workshop: Situating your question in a Research Program. Baglione, Chapter 3.

## The Causes of Ethnic and Nationalist Violence

### *Macro Causes.*

January 23:

- James Fearon and David Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War,” *American Political Science Review* 97:1 (2003), pp. 75-90.

January 28:

- Barbara Harff, “No Lessons Learned from the Holocaust? Assessing Risks of Genocide and Political Mass Murder since 1945,” *American Political Science Review* 97:1 (2003), pp. 57-73.
- Barry Posen, “The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict,” *Survival* 35:1 (1993), pp. 27-47.
- 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**

- Robert White, “From Peaceful Protest to Guerilla War: Micromobilization of the Provisional Irish Republican Army,” *American Journal of Sociology* 94:6 (1989), 1277-1302.
- John Mueller, “The Banality of ‘Ethnic War,’” *International Security* 25:1 (200), pp. 42-70.
- Writing Workshop: Crafting Theoretical Arguments. Baglione, Chapter 5.

February 6:

- Donald Green and Rachel Seher, “What Role Does Prejudice Play in Ethnic Conflict?” *Annual Review of Political Science* 6 (2003), pp. 509-531.
- Stathis Kalyas, “The Ontology of ‘Political Violence’: Action and Identity in Civil Wars,” *Perspectives on Politics* 2003: 475-94.

## Focused Topics in the Study of Ethnic Violence

### Causes of Genocide in Rwanda.

February 11:

- Straus, *The Order of Genocide*, Preface, Acknowledgements, Introduction and Chapter 1.
- Writing Workshop: Research Design. Baglione, Chapter 7.

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.
- Writing Workshop: Tying it Together. Baglione, Chapter 9.

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:

- Posner, Daniel, *Institutions and Ethnic Politics*, Chapter 1.
- Cornell, Svante, “Autonomy as a Source of Conflict: Caucasian Conflicts in Comparative Perspective,” *World Politics* 54 (January 2002): 245-76.

## Ethnic Riots.

March 25:

- Wilkinson, chapter 1 from *Votes and Violence*.
- Varshney, Ashutosh, “Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond,” *World Politics* 53 (April 2001), 362–98.
- Writing Workshop.

March 27:

- Panggabean, Rizal and Benjamin Smith, “Explaining Anti-Chinese Riots in Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Indonesia,” *World Development* Vol. 39, No. 2, pp. 231–242, 2011.

## 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:

- Edward Aspinall, “The Construction of Grievance,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* Volume 51 Number 6 December 2007 950-972

April 8:

- Barbara F. Walter, “Information, Uncertainty and the Decision to Secede,” *International Organization*, Vol. 60, No. 1 (Winter, 2006), pp. 105-135.
- 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.**