

Ethnicity and Nationalism

POS 6933 Section 02A7

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Office hours: MF 1-2:30 pm and by appointment.

This seminar will introduce you to the main approaches in political science to the study of how ethnic and national identities are formed, and how they are activated in politics. We will study various forms of ethnic politics: peace, rioting, and the most extreme forms, genocide and secession. It will also give you a foundation in the study of ethnic and religious identity formation, which is pertinent to research well beyond the field of ethnic politics.

Course requirements:

Readings. I have structured this course keeping in mind the need to have a reading load that is manageably as opposed to unmanageably heavy; weekly readings run 200-300 pages in general, more for books, fewer for sets of articles (which generally take longer given a stand-alone argument in each). What this means is that I expect each of you to have done ALL of the readings in advance.

Participation. One of the central aims of our PhD program is to train you in the profession of political science. In this profession, you will need to talk, in order to present your own ideas, in order to comment on/challenge/encourage the improvement of your colleagues' ideas, and so forth. As such, participation constitutes 25% of the grade in this course, and it is not a freebie. If you earned perfect grades on all written assignments but sat quietly throughout the semester, you would receive a B-, a failing grade in this program. I expect active and regular participation in all discussions. Sitting quietly in a seminar is analogous to turning in a paper consisting of blank pages. In addition to regular contribution to weekly discussions, each of you will introduce the readings for two weekly meetings. We will talk more later about what this involves.

Writing. My goal in having you write a paper is to get you thinking about publishing in political science journals. That in mind, the major portion of your grade will be an article-length paper of around 10,000 words (the limit for most political science journals), which will constitute 50% of your grade. Your paper will focus on an issue related to ethnicity and nationalism in one or more countries and, unless you and I agree on an alternative format, will take one of the following two forms: an in-depth study of a single case or country paired with analysis of data from one or more cross-national datasets on ethnicity or conflict, or a small-N study of issues in two or three cases selected appropriately. We will talk at length early in the semester about both the cross-national datasets available and about appropriate criteria for selecting cases for comparison. In consultation with me, you'll target a conference at which to present this paper,

and a set of possible journal outlets for it later. The remaining quarter of your grade will be composed of three response papers of about 1300-1500 words (around 5-7 pages). These are due in weeks of your choosing, but you must turn in at least one before our meeting on October 14.

Response papers: 25%

Participation: 25%

Paper: 50%

The paper project has the following deadlines. September 9 – select question, format and cases of focus. September 23 is deadline for final selection; September 30 – submit paper proposal; Papers due by noon December 11, in hard copy to Anderson 002 and to turnitin.com

Required readings: The following books are available online and at local bookstores.

Anderson, Benedict *Imagined Communities*

Horowitz, Donald *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*

Smith, Anthony *Nationalism and Modernism*

Andreas Wimmer, *Waves of War*

Schedule of Readings:

August 26

What are "Ethnicity" and "Ethnic Politics?" What causes "Ethnic violence" and how do we know it when we see it?

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

Paul Brass, "Development of an Institutionalized Riot System in Meerut City, 1961-1982," *Economic and Political Weekly* October 30, 2004.

September 5: Make-up Meeting at my house.

Introduction to Cross-National Datasets and to Strategies for Case Selection.

"The Comparative Method," Symposium in APSA-CP, 1998.

John Gerring, "What is a Case Study and What is it Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98, 2 (2004), 341-54.

Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get," *Political Analysis* 1990.

I. On Identities and the Formation of Groups.

September 9

Identity Formation: Primordialism, Instrumentalism, Modernism, and Violence.

Clifford Geertz, "The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States," pp.255-310 from C. Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*.

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.

Henry Hale, "Explaining Ethnicity," *Comparative Political Studies* 37, 4 (May 2004): 458-85.

James Fearon and David Laitin, "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity," *International Organization* 54, 4: 845-77.

September 16

Group Formation and Boundary Setting:

Horowitz, EGC, Chapters 1-5.

September 23: *Ethnic Boundaries Continued:*

Horowitz, Parts Three and Four (Chapters 7-13).

September 30

II. The Rise of Nationalism.

October 7

Smith, *Nationalism and Modernism*

October 14

Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

October 21

Andreas Wimmer, *Waves of War* Chapters 1-5.

III. The Causes of Ethnic and Nationalist Violence

October 28

Macro Causes Part 1: Ethnicity and Violence.

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

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.

Sandra Halperin, "The Spread of Ethnic Conflict in Europe: Some Comparative-Historical Reflections," in David A. Lake & Donald Rothchild, Eds. *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict* (Princeton University Press, 1998) 151-184.

November 4

Micro Causes:

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.

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.

Ashutosh Varshney, "Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Rationality," *Perspectives on Politics* 1, 1 (March 2003): 85-99.

November 11: No class. Veteran's Day

November 18: Institutions and Ethnic Politics.

Posner, Daniel, *Institutions and Ethnic Politics*, Chapter 1.

Smith, "Separatist Conflict in the Former Soviet Union and Beyond: How Different Was Communism?" *World Politics* April 2013.

Cornell, Svante, "Autonomy as a Source of Conflict: Caucasian Conflicts in Comparative Perspective," *World Politics* 54 (January 2002): 245-76.

Wimmer Chapter 6.

Roeder, Philip & and Donald Rothchild, Chapter 2 from *Sustainable Peace: Power and Democracy After Civil Wars*.

November 25: Ethnic riots.

Wilkinson, chapter 1.

Varshney, WP article.

Smith and Panggabean, WD article.

December 2: Separatism.

Fearon, "Ethnic War as Commitment Problem."

Toft, *Security Studies* article.

Smith, chapter 1 of *History and Rebellion* book manuscript.

December 11: Research Papers Due by noon to my office (002 Anderson) and electronically to bbsmith@ufl.edu. No exceptions.