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?*


*September 5: Make-up Meeting at my house.*
*Introduction to Cross-National Datasets and to Strategies for Case Selection.*

I. On Identities and the Formation of Groups.

*September 9*
Identity Formation: Primordialism, Instrumentalism, Modernism, and Violence.

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.
November 4
Micro Causes:

November 11: No class. Veteran’s Day

November 18: Institutions and Ethnic Politics.
Smith, “Separatist Conflict in the Former Soviet Union and Beyond: How Different Was Communism?” *World Politics* April 2013.
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.