ETHNIC CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING
PSC 3192W

Tuesday 6:10pm - 8:00pm
Monroe Hall, 325

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Office: Monroe Hall, 462
Office Hours: Tuesday 4-6pm [Skype calls at other times are also possible by request]

Description and Objectives

This course analyzes the drivers of ethnic conflict and efforts to build peace in its aftermath. The class covers three core themes, which analyze: 1) the theoretical foundation of identity formation; 2) the dynamics and drivers of ethnic conflict; and 3) the techniques and institutional arrangements used to end and manage conflict. The class is oriented toward deductive theories of conflict and peacebuilding. Each student will apply these theories to a selected case on which he or she cultivates expertise throughout the semester. The class is designed to provide students a theoretical understanding of ethnicity and conflict, an historical background of major episodes of ethnic civil war, and an introduction to institutional design choices facing policymakers.

Required Texts

- There are no required texts for this class. All assigned book chapters, journal articles, and online resources will be available on Blackboard.

Bibliography for Book Selections


**Grading**

- Participation (Attendance and Discussion) – 20%
  
  *Attendance and discussion are two components of your participation score. You will receive one point for each class attended (starting on class 2) plus 0-3 points based on participation, which will be calculated as 0 = minimal/none, 1 = low, 2 = medium, and 3 = high. Your participation score is based on my impression of your participation and not subject to challenge. Students will lose 1 point for each unexcused absence. Your grade will be calculated as the percentage of total possible points:*

  \[
  \text{Attendance score} + (0-3) / 16
  \]

- Discussion Thread Submissions – 10%
  
  *For each class, every student will submit a discussion/content question on the session’s Blackboard discussion thread at least an hour before class begins (starting on class 2). The question cannot repeat someone else’s question. You will receive one point for each submitted question*

- Country Profile – 20%
  
  *Students will write a short profile of a selected country. Instructions provided separately.*
- Annotated Bibliography – 21% (7% each)
  Students will write a three-part annotated bibliography related to their case study. Instructions provided separately.

- Paper Conference, Abstract, and Outline – 5%
  During the last week of class, each student is required to meet with me for a paper conference. You will bring an abstract and outline for your paper to discuss with me. Instructions provided separately.

- Final Paper Case Study – 24%
  Students will write a 15-20-page research-based case study of a selected country. Instructions provided separately.

Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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*Grades rounded to nearest whole number: e.g., 89.5 is a 90, 89.4 is a 89. There will be no exceptions regarding the rounding of the final score.*
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/30 (1)</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>No Readings</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2) Donald Horowitz, “The Dimensions of Ethnic Conflict” and “A Family Resemblance” in Ethnic Groups in Conflict, 41-54; 55-64 | Discussion Board Submission (by 5pm)  
-Case selection posted on Blackboard (by 5pm) |
| 9/13 (3) | Constructivism and Instrumentalism | **Case Question:** What are the relevant ethnic identities in your case and how did they emerge and change over time? What are their importance in politics, economics, and society?  
1) Kanchan Chandra, “How Ethnic Identities Change” in Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics, 139-178  
| 9/20 (4) | Ethnicity and Instability   | **Case Question:** Is ethnic identity understood as “primordial” in your case? How has ethnic identity shaped conflict? What have been the instances of ethnic violence?  
1) Clifford Geertz (1963), Section II in “The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States,” 3-7 (in PDF)  
4) Roger Petersen, “Fear, Hatred, and Rage” in Understanding Ethnic Violence, 62-84  
5) Donald Horowitz, “The Riot Episode” in Deadly Ethnic Riot, 71-88 | Discussion Board Submission (by 5pm) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Case Question</th>
<th>Assignment Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/27 (5)</td>
<td>Ethnic Conflict and Grievance</td>
<td>How would you relate the theories from this week’s readings (relative deprivation, ranked/unranked systems, impact of colonialism, greed, etc.) to your case?</td>
<td>-Discussion Board Submission (by 5pm) -Country Profile due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/4 (6)</td>
<td>Ethnicity and Politics</td>
<td>What is the relationship of ethnicity to party politics in your case? How is ethnicity used to mobilize voters?</td>
<td>Discussion Board Submission (by 5pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11 (7)</td>
<td>Ethnic Conflict and International Security</td>
<td>What are the international dimensions of conflict in your case? Has there been (or should there be) international intervention? Would the “Wilsonian approach” or “shared sovereignty” work in your case?</td>
<td>-Discussion Board Submission (by 5pm) -Annotated bibliography #1 due on Blackboard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1) Ted Gurr, “Relative Deprivation and the Impetus to Violence” in Why Men Rebel, 22-30  
3) Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*, “Group Comparison and Sources of Conflict,” 160-184  


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Case Question</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>FALL BREAK – NO CLASS</td>
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| 11/1 (9)   | The Challenges of Democratic Transition | Apply the four dilemmas of transition to your case. How have rebel movements been/could be treated? How have/could elections exacerbate conflict? | 1) Anna Jarstad, “Dilemmas of war-to-democracy transitions: theories and concepts,” 17-36  
2) Mimmi Soderberg Kovacs, “When rebels change their stripes: armed insurgents in post-war politics,” 134-156  
3) Benjamin Reilly, “Post-war elections: uncertain turning points of transition,” 157-181  
4) Hall and Taylor (1996), “Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms,” 5-24 (in PDF) [*This reading sets up next week, so it’s an awkward fit this week.*] | -Annotated bibliography #2 due on Blackboard |
2) Andrew Reynolds, Designing Democracy in a Dangerous World, 37-56, 71-87  
<table>
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<th>11/15 (11)</th>
<th>FPTP and Preferential Systems</th>
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<td><strong>Case Question:</strong> How would/has majoritarian or preferential systems operate in your case? What would be their impact?</td>
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3) Ben Reilly, “Introduction: democracy in divided societies” in Democracy in Divided Societies, 1-26  
| -Discussion Board Submission (by 5pm)  
-Annotated bibliography #3 due on Blackboard |

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<tr>
<th>11/22 (12)</th>
<th>Federalism and Decentralization</th>
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<td><strong>Case Question:</strong> What would be/has been the impact of federalism in your case? What distribution of power would be best? How could/have economic policies address existing structural inequalities? What role, positive or negative, could/has civil society play in the conflict?</td>
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</table>
2) Pippa Norris, “Federalism and Decentralization” in Driving Democracy, 157-185  
4) Robert Belloni, “Civil society in war-to-democracy transitions” in From War to Democracy, 182-210  
<p>| Discussion Board Submission (by 5pm) |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Case Question: How have political party and electoral regulations been/could be used in your case?</th>
<th>Discussion Board Submission (by 5pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
2) Reynolds et al, IDEA Handbook, “Considerations on Representation”, 122-126  
3) Ben Reilly, “Introduction,” in Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies, 3-23  
4) Matthijs Bogaards, “Comparative strategies of political party regulation,” in Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies, 48-66  
| 12/6 (14) | Paper Conferences               | No readings                                                                                                                                                     | Paper abstract and outline due during meeting |
| Finals Week| Final paper due on GW’s official final exam date for the course |                                                                                                                                  |                                      |