

PSCI 0445-A: Comparative Ethnic Politics

*TuTh 1:30-2:45pm, Le Chateau 109
Spring 2019*

Instructor: Katharine Aha

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:00-4:00pm; Wednesdays 2:00-4:00pm

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Course Description

In this seminar we will explore critical questions concerning the impact of ethnic diversity on politics across a wide range of societies. First, we will discuss the construction of ethnic identities, and how these identities are mobilized politically. Second, we will examine the impact of ethnic mobilization on democratic politics. Third, we will look at whether and when mobilized ethnic identities contribute to an increased likelihood of ethnic conflict. Fourth, we will turn to an in-depth case study of Yugoslavia to illustrate theories discussed throughout the semester. The goals of this course are to give you a deep understanding of both major and new debates in comparative ethnic politics, as well as to expose you to a variety of different cases and methodologies. You will get extensive practice in analyzing academic sources, and articulating your own arguments both in class and through your writing. Additionally, you will be able to build upon your own interests through a research paper on a topic of your choosing, and this course will allow you to develop skills towards completing a successful research project.

Readings

This course has four books that can be purchased through the Middlebury College Bookstore (& the last three are on reserve in the library):

- Gellner, Ernest. 2006. *Nations and Nationalism, 2nd Edition*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Birnir, Johanna Kristin. 2007. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Wilkinson, Steven. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Silber, Laura and Allan Little. 1997. *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation: Revised and Updated*. New York: Penguin Books.

All other readings can be found on Canvas.

Course Website (Canvas)

The course website is on Canvas. I will use the course website to post the syllabus and other course information in an easily accessible location, and you will be expected to upload assignments on Canvas throughout the semester. Please let me know immediately if you have any issues logging into the website.

Course Grade Components

15%: Participation
20%: Response papers
10%: Discussion leading
15%: Preliminary research paper draft and peer review
10%: Presentation
30%: Final research paper

Course Requirements

Participation

This course is a seminar. As such, students are expected to attend all classes and to actively participate in classroom discussions, coming prepared by having completed and thought about the assigned readings.

Response papers

During the course of the semester, you will write four response papers (two to three pages). You will not write a response paper the week that you lead discussion. These papers are not a summary of the readings of the week, but should instead synthesize the main themes and arguments, and assess these arguments and/or the evidence used to support these arguments, or draw connections on the readings for the week to previously assigned material. At the end of the paper, please pose two questions that emerge from the material that you think are worth discussing in class. These papers are due on Canvas by 1:30pm on Monday for the weeks they are assigned.

Discussion leader

In pairs, each student will serve as discussion leader at least once during the course of the semester. As discussion leaders, the pair will briefly summarize the readings for the week (~10 minutes). For the rest of the two class sessions that week, the pair will pose questions and facilitate discussion in an organized manner. Discussion leaders are encouraged to read and refer to their classmates' response papers. I also encourage you to meet with me prior to leading discussion.

Research paper

Your main project for the semester will be to conduct your own research and write a 20-25 page research paper on a topic of your choice. The paper must be about ethnic politics (although does not have to be on an issue directly covered in class), and should reference both materials covered in the class, as well as other sources. You will present your work during the last two weeks of class. The final paper is due on May 9th, and will be graded based on the consistency of your argument and use evidence, as well as the extent to which you have improved upon the preliminary draft.

Prior to submitting the final paper you will submit the following:

- research question + working bibliography (Week 5)
- intro + outline (Week 7)
- preliminary draft (at least 15 pages) (Week 9)

After each piece is submitted, we will also meet one-on-one to discuss the direction of the project. The preliminary draft will be peer reviewed, allowing you to gain insight on how readers understand your paper, as well as allowing you to practice giving constructive feedback.

Due dates

Response papers: Mondays at 1:30pm (unless you are discussion leader)

- February 25
- March 4
- March 11
- March 18
- April 1

Research question and working bibliography: March 12 at 1:30pm

Intro and outline: April 2 at 1:30pm

Preliminary draft: April 16 at 1:30pm

Feedback on classmate drafts: April 18 at 1:30pm

Presentations: April 30, May 2, May 7

Final research paper: May 9 at 1:30pm

Course policies

Respectful discussion

Be respectful. Different opinions are healthy and welcome in the classroom. However, it is essential that we treat one another with respect. You do not have to agree with someone's view, but you do have to be respectful. Disrespectful students may be asked to leave the classroom. Please take a look at Middlebury's harassment policy if you have questions

[\(http://www.middlebury.edu/about/handbook/policies-for-all/non-discrim-policies/anti-harassment-discrimin\)](http://www.middlebury.edu/about/handbook/policies-for-all/non-discrim-policies/anti-harassment-discrimin)

Honor Code

It is expected that all work you do in this course will be original work not previously or simultaneously handed in for credit in another course, unless this is done with the prior permission of all instructors involved. All work for this course falls under the college's Honor Code; the student's signature on her/ his work confirms that the Code rules were respected. All work must be your own – plagiarism, cheating, and related violations will not be tolerated. For more information on academic honesty and the honor code, visit <http://www.middlebury.edu/about/handbook/ug-college-policies/ug-policies/academics/acad-honesty>.

Familiarize yourself with the concept and practice of plagiarism in order to make sure that you avoid it. Plagiarism is defined as deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise. Please visit this link for resources on how to avoid plagiarism:

<https://middlebury.libguides.com/c.php?g=431952&p=2946059>.

Questions

If you have questions about the course, please come see me after class or during office hours. Please email me if you absolutely cannot come to office hours. Some questions may not be easily resolved by email, but we can set up another time to meet if necessary. Please do communicate with me early if you have any challenges that impact your performance in this course; I will not be able to help you if you do not ask for help.

Student accessibility

Students who have Letters of Accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact me as early in the semester as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For those without Letters of Accommodation, assistance is available to eligible students through Student Accessibility Services. Please contact Jodi Litchfield or Michelle Audette, the ADA Coordinators, for more information: Michelle Audette can be reached at maudette@middlebury.edu or 802-443-2169 and Jodi Litchfield can be reached at litchfie@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5936. All discussions will remain confidential.

Conduct in Class + Additional Info

I would like you to bring your laptops to class in order to access electronic resources - however, I expect you to use them for activity related to this course. Playing on the Internet during class is highly disrespectful to people who are trying to pay attention. I may not call you out for being on another site during class, but I will notice, and it will affect your final grade. You may not have your laptops open during any sort of student presentation. If, during the course of the semester, I see that the laptops are acting as more of a distraction than a help, I reserve the right to restrict their usage.

Do not use your cell phone during class. I can tell when you're using it, and it will definitely impact your participation grade. Don't do it.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (February 12 & 14): Introduction

Readings:

- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States."
 - o pp 1-12
- Horowitz, Donald L. 2000. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
 - o pp 51-92
- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54(4).
 - o pp 845-857

Week 2 (February 19 & 21): The formation of ethnic groups

Readings:

- Gellner, Ernest. 2006. *Nations and Nationalism, 2nd Edition*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
 - o Chapters 1-4, 8
- Posner, Daniel N. 2003. "The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Cleavages." *Comparative Politics* 35(2): 127-146.
- Darden, Keith and Harris Mylonas. 2016. "Threats to Territorial Integrity, National Mass Schooling, and Linguistic Commonality." *Comparative Political Studies* 49(11): 1446-1479

Week 3 (February 26 & 28): Political salience of ethnic identities

***Reaction paper due 2/25 by 1:30pm**

Readings:

- Yashar, Deborah J. 1998. "Contesting Citizenship: Indigenous Movements and Democracy in Latin America." *Comparative Politics* 31(1): 23-42.
- Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Differences: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529-545.
- Bustikova, Lenka. 2014. "Revenge of the Radical Right." *Comparative Political Studies* 47(12): 1738-1765.
- Charnysh, Volha. 2015. "Historical Legacies of Interethnic Competition: Anti-Semitism and the EU Referendum in Poland." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(13): 1711-1745.

Week 4 (March 5 & 7): Voting and ethnic identities

***Reaction paper due 3/4 by 1:30pm**

- Birnir, Johanna Kristin. 2007. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
 - o Chapters 1-5
- Ichino, Nahomi and Noah L. Nathan. 2013. "Crossing the Line: Local Ethnic Geography and Voting in Ghana." *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 344-361.
- Adida, Claire L. 2015. "Do African Voters Favor Coethnics? Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Benin." *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 2(1): 1-11.

Week 5 (March 12 & 14): Ethnic heterogeneity and democratic stability

***Reaction paper due 3/11 by 1:30pm**

***Research question and working bibliography due March 12th**

Readings:

- Horowitz, Donald L. 1993. "The Challenge of Ethnic Conflict: Democracy in Divided Societies." *Journal of Democracy* 4(4): 18-38.
- Birnir, Johanna Kristin. 2007. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
 - o Chapters 6-8
- Gerring, John, Michael Hoffman and Dominic Zarecki. 2018. "The Diverse Effects of Diversity on Democracy." *British Journal of Political Science* 48(2): 283-314.

Week 6 (March 19 & 21): Ethnic heterogeneity and contentious politics

***Reaction paper due 3/18 by 1:30pm**

Readings:

- Wilkinson, Steven. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
 - o Chapters 1-3, 5, 7
- Mahler, Annegret and Jan H. Pierskalla. 2015. "Indigenous Identity, Natural Resources, and Contentious Politics in Bolivia: A Disaggregated Conflict Analysis, 2000-2011." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(3): 301-332.

SPRING BREAK

Week 7 (April 2 & 4): Ethnic heterogeneity and conflict

*Reaction paper due by 4/1 at 1:30pm

*Rough draft of intro and outline due April 2nd

Readings:

- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.
- Jenne, Erin. 2004. "A Bargaining Theory of Minority Demands: Explaining the Dog that Did Not Bite in 1990s Yugoslavia." *International Studies Quarterly* 48(4): 729-754.
- Neudorfer, Natascha S. and Ulrike G. Theuerkauf. 2014. "Buying War Not Peace: The Influence of Corruption on the Risk of Ethnic War." *Comparative Political Studies* 47(13): 1856-1886.
- Siroky, David S. and John Cuffe. 2015. "Lost Autonomy, Nationalism and Separatism." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(1): 3-34.

Week 8 (April 9 & 11): Yugoslavia

Readings:

4/9:

- Silber, Laura and Allan Little. *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation Revised and Updated*. New York: Penguin Books
 - o Parts 1 and 2
- Fearon, James D. 1995. "Ethnic War as a Commitment Problem." Presented at the 1994 Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

4/11:

- Silber, Laura and Allan Little. *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation Revised and Updated*. New York: Penguin Books
 - o Part 3

Week 9 (April 16 & 18): Yugoslavia

*Preliminary draft due 4/16 – bring 2 copies to class

*Peer review due 4/18

Readings:

- Silber, Laura and Allan Little. *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation Revised and Updated*. New York: Penguin Books.
 - o Part 4
- Martin, Felix and Gerald Knaus. 2003. "Lessons from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Travails of the European Raj." *Journal of Democracy* 14(3): 60-74.

Week 10 (April 23 & 25): Yugoslavia

Readings:

- Belloni, Roberto. 2004. "Peacebuilding and Consociational Electoral Engineering in the Balkans." *International Peacekeeping* 11(2): 334-353.
- Jenne, Erin K. 2009. "The Paradox of Ethnic Partition: Lessons from *de facto* Partition in Bosnia and Kosovo." *Regional & Federal Studies* 19(2): 273-289.
- Vachudova, Milada Anna. 2014. "EU Leverage and National Interests in the Balkans: The Puzzles of Enlargement Ten Years On." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 52(1): 122-138.

Week 11 (April 30 & May 2): Student presentations

Week 12 (May 7 & 9): Student presentations and wrap-up

***May 9th research paper due**