

PSC/IR 252: Ethnic Politics

Prof. Bethany Lacina

Thursdays, 2-4:40

Gavet 301

This course takes up three questions: What is ethnicity and when is it politically important? How does ethnic politics matter for economic outcomes? What is the relationship between ethnic politics and political violence?

Instructor

Professor Lacina

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 10-12

Course Requirements

1. Students should complete all assigned reading before coming to class. All readings are available through Blackboard or linked from the course syllabus.
2. There are 9 weekly assignments and a final essay for this class. The instructions and grading rubric for an assignment will be distributed in class the week before the assignment is due. Two of the weekly assignments are mandatory and are worth a total of 15% of the course grade. Of the remaining 7 weekly assignments, students may complete any 5. Each of these five assignments will be worth 13% of the students final grade. The final essay is mandatory and work 20% of the course grade.
 - After they have completed five assignments, students may complete additional assignments to replace earlier assignment grades if they wish to do so. This provision does not apply to the two mandatory assignments or the final essay. If a student hands in an extra assignment, the score on the extra assignment will be substituted for the student's lowest existing score *even if* the score on the extra assignment is lower than the existing score.
 - Weekly assignments are due in class, at the beginning of class. The final essay will be turned in by email by 5pm on 12/17. Barring extraordinary circumstances, late work will be marked down a third of a grade (e.g., A to A-) for each 24 hour period after it is due. Thus, if an assignment is turned in any time during the first 24 hours after it is due, it is penalized a third of a grade. Any assignment not turned in within a week of the due date will automatically receive a zero.
 - There are no extra credit assignments.

3. I will award extra credit (an additional 3% added to their final score) if there is 95% participation in the on-line course evaluations. Only students without unexcused absences from class will be awarded extra credit.

Assignment Schedule

- Assignment 1, due 9/17: A 3-4 page proposal for a hypothetical experiment comparing how people interact with coethnics versus non-coethnics.
- Assignment 2, due 9/24: A poster and one page memo that explain the politicization of ethnicity in a place where you have lived using theories from class. (STUDENTS MAY NOT SKIP THIS ASSIGNMENT). Worth 10% of final grade.
- Assignment 3, due 10/1: A 3-4 page essay reporting on your research of the history of a particular name for an ethnic identity.
- Assignment 4, due 10/15: A written analysis of data on nativist politics and the party system in the United States.
- Assignment 5, due 10/29: Report on the relationship between ethnic diversity and group effectiveness after observing teams, clubs, study groups, or coworkers on campus.
- Assignment 6, due 11/5: A written analysis of data on public goods and community spending across New York state.
- Assignment 7, due 11/19: A cartoon and one page accompanying memo that contrasts media coverage of an ethnic conflict across media sources to an academic account.
- Assignment 8, due 12/3: An essay analyzing a piece of artwork that advocates ethnicity-related violence.
- Assignment 9, due 12/10: Rough draft of a 7-8 page essay based on a prompt that will require you to show your knowledge of the readings and lectures. No outside research will be required. (STUDENTS MAY NOT SKIP THIS ASSIGNMENT). Worth 5% of course grade; graded on a pass/fail basis.
- Final draft of essay due 12/17, 5pm: 20% of final grade. Students will submit the essay by email. (STUDENTS MAY NOT SKIP THIS ASSIGNMENT). Include your essay as an attachment AND paste the text of your work into the body of the email. If you do not include the text of the assignment in the body of your email and your attachment is missing, corrupted, or unreadable, your work will be considered late.

Regrading

If a student wishes to challenge the grade assigned to all or part of an assignment, the following steps must be taken:

1. Email the professor a request for a re-grade (see below) within 1 week of the assignment being returned to the class.
2. A request for a re-grade must explain which aspect(s) of the grading rubric the student believes should have been assigned a higher score. For each disputed aspect, students must justify why they should be given a higher grade given the standards in the grading rubric and cite specific materials in the readings or lectures if applicable.
3. The professor will re-grade all aspects of the assignment. The students final score on the assignment may go up or down or be unchanged.

Grading scale

A	93% – 100%
A-	90% – 92.9%
B+	87% – 89.9%
B	84% – 86.9%
B-	80% – 83.9%
C+	77% – 79.9%
C	74% – 76.9%
C-	70% – 73.9%
D+	67% – 69.9%
D	64% – 66.9%
D-	60% – 63.9%
E	0% – 59.9%

Class schedule

Reading for the week must be completed before class.

September 3: No course meeting

September 10: Why ethnicity?

Eriksen, Thomas H. 1996. "Ethnicity, race, class and nation." In *Ethnicity*. Oxford University Press. Blackboard. (7 pages)

Habyarimana, James et al. 2009. *Coethnicity*. Russell Sage Foundation. Pp. 1-13. Blackboard. (14 pages)

Hale, Henry E. 2004. "Explaining Ethnicity." *Comparative Political Studies*. <http://cps.sagepub.com/content/37/4/458> (28 pages)

September 17: When is ethnicity politically important? Economics and politics

Bates, Robert H. 1983. "Modernization, ethnic competition, and the rationality of politics in contemporary Africa." In *State Versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas*. Westview Press. Blackboard. (20 pages)

Horowitz, Donald. (1985) *Ethnic groups in conflict*. University of California Press. Pp. 318-332, 342-364. Blackboard. (36 pages)

Posner, Daniel N. 2005. *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 130-158. Blackboard. (29 pages)

September 24: When is ethnicity politically important? History and psychology

Horowitz, Donald. 1985. *Ethnic groups in conflict*. University of California Press. Pp. 141-207. Blackboard. (67 pages)

Petersen, Roger D. 2002. *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*. Cambridge University Press, Pp. 17-28, 87-94. Blackboard. (20 pages)

October 1: When is ethnicity politically important? The role of migration

Wong, Cara J. 2010. *Boundaries of obligation in American politics: Geographic, national, and racial communities*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-17, Chapter 4. Blackboard (58 pages)

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2011. "Sons of the Soil, Migrants, and Civil War." *World Development*. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2009.11.031> (13 pages)

October 8: Ethnic politics and democratic stability

Birnir, Jóhanna Kristín. 2006. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2, pp. 136-145. Blackboard. (30 pages)

Chandra, Kanchan. 2005. "Ethnic parties and democratic stability." *Perspectives on Politics*. Skip section titled "Institutionalized Multidimensionality and Centrist Ethnic Party Behavior." <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3688028> (12 pages)

Lijphart, Arend. 2004. "Constitutional design for divided societies." *Journal of Democracy* <http://doi.org/10.1353/jod.2004.0029> (15 pages)

Reilly, Benjamin. 2002. "Electoral systems for divided societies." *Journal of Democracy* <http://doi.org/10.1353/jod.2002.0029> (15 pages)

October 15: Ethnic politics and national poverty

Collier, Paul. 2001. "Implications of ethnic diversity." *Economic Policy*. Pp. 128–146. Blackboard. (19 pages)

Kramon, Eric and Daniel Posner. 2013. "Who Benefits from Distributive Politics? How the Outcome One Studies Affects the Answer One Gets." *Perspectives on Politics*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592713001035> (14 pages)

Ottaviano, Gianmarco I. P. and Giovanni Peri. 2006. "The economic value of cultural diversity: Evidence from US cities." *Journal of Economic Geography*. Pp. 9–19. Blackboard (11 pages)

October 22: In-class film

No new reading

October 29: Ethnic politics and community spending

Miguel, Edward. 2004. "Tribe or nation? Nation building and public goods in Kenya versus Tanzania." *World Politics*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0043887100004330> (36 pages)

Putnam, Robert D. 2007. "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century." *Scandinavian Political Studies*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9477.2007.00176.x> (38 pages)

November 5: Social explanations of ethnic violence

Cohen, Dov and Richard E. Nisbett. 1994. "Self-protection and the culture of honor: Explaining Southern violence." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0146167294205012> (17 pages)

Green, Donald P. and Rachel L. Seher. 2003. "What role does prejudice play in ethnic conflict?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. <http://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.6.121901.085642> (23 pages)

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. "Ethnic conflict and civil society: India and beyond." *World Politics*. <http://doi.org/10.1353/wp.2001.0012> (37 pages)

November 12: Institutional explanations of ethnic violence

Jha, Saumitra. 2007. "Maintaining peace across ethnic lines: New lessons from the past." *The Economics of Peace and Security Journal*. Blackboard. (5 pages)

Wilkinson, Steven I. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-9, 154-171, 204-241. Blackboard. (65 pages)

November 19: Ideologies of violence

Hull, Isabel V. 2003. "Military culture and the production of 'Final Solutions' in the colonies: The example of Wilhelminian Germany." In *The Specter of Genocide*. Cambridge University Press. Blackboard. (22 pages)

Rhodes, Jane. 1993. "The visibility of race and media history." *Critical Studies in Mass Communication*. Blackboard. (7 pages)

Wood, Graeme. 2015. "What ISIS really wants." *The Atlantic Monthly*. Blackboard. (39 pages)

November 26: No class

December 3: Ethnic violence and international conflict

Buruma, Ian. 2004. "Lost in translation: The two minds of Bernard Lewis." *The New Yorker*. (7 pages)

Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede, Idean Salehyan, and Kenneth Schultz. 2008. "Fighting at Home, Fighting Abroad: How Civil Wars Lead to International Disputes." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Selected pages. Blackboard. (22 pages)

Huntington, Samuel. 1993. "The clash of civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20045621> (28 pages)

December 10: Course review and essay rough drafts

No new reading