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: Harkness 322
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% – 92.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% – 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84% – 86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% – 83.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% – 79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60% – 63.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0% – 59.9%</td>
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Class schedule

Reading for the week must be completed before class.

September 3: No course meeting

September 10: Why ethnicity?


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


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


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


October 8: Ethnic politics and democratic stability


**October 15: Ethnic politics and national poverty**


**October 22: In-class film**

No new reading

**October 29: Ethnic politics and community spending**


**November 5: Social explanations of ethnic violence**


**November 12: Institutional explanations of ethnic violence**

November 19: Ideologies of violence


November 26: No class

December 3: Ethnic violence and international conflict


December 10: Course review and essay rough drafts

No new reading