University of Rochester – PSC 553
Spring 2011
Thursday, 2-4:40pm
Morey 401 (Room change!)

Ethnic Politics

Professor Meguid
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Office hours: Mondays, 3-4:30pm

Professor Lacina
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Office hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am

Course Description

What motivates individuals to identify with an ethnic group? How does ethnic identity shape voting, political parties, democratic stability, economic growth, and political violence? This seminar explores the growing literature on ethnic politics in comparative politics and international relations. The course includes theoretical and multi-country studies of ethnic politics and also includes in-depth case studies of Nigeria, the United States, southern Africa, India, and Sudan.

Course Requirements

This is a seminar course. Student preparation and participation is vital to the success of the course. Students are expected to attend all classes, to have carefully read the assignment, and to come prepared to discuss the readings in each and every meeting. Grading for PSC/IR 553 will be based on the following requirements:

Participation: 20%
Paper proposal (Due by 5 pm, 2/3): 10%
Literature review (Due by 5 pm, 3/3): 25%
Final paper (Due by 5 pm, 5/1): 45%

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 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.

See Professors Lacina and Meguid for more details on the required paper proposal, literature review, and final paper.

Readings

In this course, we will read books, book chapters and journal articles. Some journal articles and chapters in edited volumes are available through the Blackboard website for IR/PSC 252. The books listed below have been ordered through the Bookstore. A copy of each book is also on reserve at Rush Rhees Library.


**Part 1: What is ethnicity and when is it politically important?**

**Week One (1/13): Introduction to the course (7 pages)**


**Week Two (1/20): What is ethnicity and when does it matter in politics? (84 pages)**


**Week Three (1/27): Economic and institutional explanations of ethnic politics (152 pages)**


Additional reading for graduate students:


**Week Four (2/3): Governing institutions and the origins of ethnic politics (181 pages)**

**Paper proposal due by 5 pm on 2/3.**


Additional reading for graduate students:

**Week Five (2/10): Psychological explanations of ethnic politics (178 pages)**


Additional reading for graduate students:

### Part 2: How does ethnicity shape politics?

**Week Six (2/17): Ethnicity and political parties (114 pages)**


**Week Seven (2/24): Party behavior and competition in the United States (178 pages)**


**Literature review due by 5 pm on 3/3. No class meeting.**

**Week Eight (3/17): Ethnic politics and democracy (122 pages)**


Birnir, Jóhanna Kristín. 2006. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics.* Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 6
Week Nine (3/24): Ethnic violence (179 pages)


Week Ten (3/31): In-class film: Hotel Rwanda

Week Eleven (4/7): Hindu-Muslim riots in India (208 pages)


Week Twelve (4/14): Ethnic war in Sudan (198 pages)


Week Thirteen (4/21): Ethnic politics and economic growth and course wrap-up (98 pages)


Additional reading for graduate students:

Final paper due May 1, 5 pm.