

PSC/IR 252: Ethnic Politics

University of Rochester
Fall 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:05-12:20
Dewey, 1101

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

Academic honesty

Work done for this class is governed by the University's policies on academic honesty. See <http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/> for details.

Legal disclaimer

The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better student learning.

Course Requirements

Students must complete all assigned reading before coming to class. All readings are available through Blackboard.

There are six take-home assignments for this class. Each assignment is worth 15% of the course grade, with the exception of the final assignment, worth 25% of the course grade. There are no extra credit assignments. See below for grading scale, policies on late work, and re-grading.

I will award everyone in the class extra credit (an additional 3% added to the final score) if there is 95% participation in the on-line course evaluations.

Assignment Schedule

Assignment 1: A 3-4 page essay reporting on your research of the history of a particular term for an ethnic identity. Instructions distributed: 9/10. Due: 9/20 by 12pm. Worth 15% of final grade.

Assignment 2: A poster and one page memo that explain the politicization of ethnicity in a place where you have lived using theories from class. Instructions distributed: 9/24. Due: 10/3 at the beginning of the class period. Worth 15% of final grade.

Assignment 3: A 3-4 page proposal for a hypothetical experiment comparing how people interact with coethnics versus non-coethnics. Instructions distributed: 10/10. Due: 10/18 by 12pm. Worth 15% of final grade.

Assignment 4: A 3-4 page report interpreting a survey on poverty across ethnic groups in India. The survey results and background information will be provided with the assignment. No mathematics or statistical manipulation will be required. Instructions distributed: 10/22. Due: 11/1 by 12pm. Worth 15% of final grade.

Assignment 5: A poster and one page accompanying memo that contrasts media coverage of an ethnic conflict across media sources and to an academic account. Instructions distributed: 11/5. Due: 11/19 at the beginning of the class period. Worth 15% of final grade.

Assignment 6: A 7-8 page essay based on a prompt that will require you to integrate material from the three parts of the class and show your knowledge of the readings and lectures. No outside research will be required. Instructions distributed: 11/19. Due: 12/6 by 12pm. Worth 25% of final grade.

Evaluation policies

Late work

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.

When submitting work by email, include the assignment 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.

Grading scale

A ($93.0\% < x$)

A- ($90.0\% < x \leq 93.0\%$)

B+ ($87.0\% < x \leq 90.0\%$)

B ($84.0\% < x \leq 87.0\%$)

B- ($80.0\% < x \leq 84.0\%$)

C+ ($77.0\% < x \leq 80.0\%$)

C ($74.0\% < x \leq 77.0\%$)

C- ($70.0\% < x \leq 74.0\%$)

Non-passing grades ($x \leq 70.0\%$)

Re-grading

If there is an arithmetical error in the grading of an assignment, the student should approach the TA(s), who will correct the error. If a student wishes to challenge the grade assigned to all or part of an assignment, the following steps must be taken:

1. Students must email the professor a request for a re-grade (see below) within 72 hours 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 student's final score on the assignment may go up or down or be unchanged.

Course Schedule

9/3: Course overview

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

Week 1: What is ethnicity?

9/5: Ethnicity is not real (35 pages)

Eriksen, Thomas H. 1996. "Ethnicity, race, class and nation." In *Ethnicity*. Oxford University Press.

Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. "What is ethnic identity and does it matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9(1): 397-424.

Week 2: Where does ethnicity come from?

9/10: The social construction of ethnicity (43 pages)

Nagel, Joane. 1994. "Constructing ethnicity: Creating and recreating ethnic identity and culture." *Social Problems* 41(1): 152-176.

Weber, Eugene. 1976. *Peasants into Frenchmen*. Stanford University Press. Pp., 95-114.
Includes some French words and quotations. Use Google Translate:
<http://translate.google.com/>.

9/12: How can a social construct be so compelling? (23 pages)

Geertz, Clifford. 1977. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. Basic Books. Pp. 255-277.

Week 3: When is ethnicity politically important? I

9/17: Psychology and history (30 pages)

Petersen, Roger D. 2002. *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*. Cambridge University Press, Pp. 17-39, 87-94.

9/19: Rules of political participation I (29 pages)

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

9/20: Assignment 1 due by 12pm

Week 4: When is ethnicity politically important? II

9/24: Rules of political participation II (37 pages)

Chandra, Kanchan. 2008. "Ethnic invention: A new principle for institutional design in ethnically divided democracies." In *Designing Democratic Government: Making Institutions Work*. Russell Sage Foundation.

9/26: Economic arrangements (20 pages)

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

Week 5: When does ethnicity stop being politically important?

10/1: The stickiness of functional arrangements, assimilation, and multiculturalism (45 pages)

Laitin, David D. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba*. University of Chicago Press. Pp. 1-12, 16-20, 136-160.

10/3: Assignment 2 due at the beginning of class

No new reading. In-class activity based on assignment 2.

Part 2: Ethnic politics and economic development

Week 6: Ethnic politics and economic outcomes

10/8: Fall break

10/10: Ethnic diversity and economic outcomes (36 pages)

Alesina, A., and Eliana La Ferrara. "Ethnic diversity and economic performance." *Journal of Economic Literature* 43(3): 762-800, but skip section 2.2.

Week 7: Diversity, ethnic politics, and economic growth

10/15: Does ethnic diversity help or hurt growth? (48 pages)

Putnam, Robert D. 2007. "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century." *Scandinavian Political Studies* 30(2): 137-174.

10/17: Ethnic politics and economic growth (4 pages)

Bates, Robert H. 2000. "Ethnicity and Development in Africa: A Reappraisal." *The American Economic Review* 90(2): 131-134.

10/18: Assignment 3 due by 12pm

Week 8: Ethnic politics and public finance

10/22: Ethnic politics, public goods, and redistribution (19 pages)

Miguel, Edward. 2004. "Tribe or nation?: Nation building and public goods in Kenya versus Tanzania." *World Politics* 56(3): 327-362.

10/24: Ethnic politics, public goods, and patronage (48 pages)

Posner, Daniel and Eric Kramon. 2013. "Who Benefits from Distributive Politics? How the Outcome One Studies Affects the Answer One Gets." *Perspectives on Politics*, Forthcoming.

Week 9: Ethnic politics and institutional quality

10/29: Ethnic politics and corruption (4 pages)

Dincer, O.C. 2008. "Ethnic and religious diversity and corruption." *Economics Letters* 99(1): 98-102.

10/31: Ethnic politics and civic participation (30 pages)

Uslaner, E. and Conley, R.S. 2003. "Civic engagement and Particularized Trust: The Ties that Bind People to their Ethnic Communities." *American Politics Research* 31(4): 331-360.

11/1: Assignment 4 due by 12pm.

Part 3: Ethnic politics and violence

Week 10: Ethnic politics and conflict: An Overview

11/5: How much ethnic violence is there? (2 pages)

Bass, Gary J. (2006) "What really causes civil war?" *New York Times*.

11/7: Approaches to the study of ethnic violence (68 pages)

Horowitz, D. (1985) *Ethnic groups in conflict*. University of California Press. Pp. 95-140, 185-207.

Week 11: Two accounts of communal violence in India

11/12: Hindu-Muslim riots in India I (37 pages)

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. "Ethnic conflict and civil society: India and beyond." *World Politics* 53(3): 362-398.

11/14: Hindu-Muslim riots in India II (45 pages)

Wilkinson, S.I. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-9, 137-171.

Week 12: Weighing competing accounts of ethnic violence

11/19: Assignment 5 due at the beginning of class

No new reading. In-class activity based on assignment 5.

11/21: Combining economics and politics: "Sons of the soil" wars (12 pages)

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2011. "Sons of the Soil, Migrants, and Civil War." *World Development*, 39(2): 199-211.

11/26 and 11/28: Thanksgiving break

Week 13: How does ethnic conflict end?

12/3: Ethnic defection (26 pages)

Kalyvas, S.N. 2008. "Ethnic defection in civil war." *Comparative Political Studies* 41(8): 1043-1068.

12/5: Ethnic rapprochement (53 pages)

Kaufmann, C. (1996) "Possible and impossible solutions to ethnic civil wars." *International Security* 20(4): 136-175. (39 pages)

Lijphart, Arend. 2004. "Constitutional design for divided societies." *Journal of Democracy* 15(2): 96-109. (14 pages)

12/6: Assignment 6 due by 12pm