

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

## **Ethnic Politics**

Professor Meguid  
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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.

Hale, Henry E. 2008. *The Foundations of Ethnic Politics: Separatism and States and Nations in Eurasia and the World*. Cambridge University Press.

Laitin, David D. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba*. University of Chicago Press.

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

Prunier, G. 2008. *Darfur: A 21st Century Genocide*, 3rd edition. Cornell University Press.

Wilkinson, S.I. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge University Press. (Also available through Rochester's ebrary.)

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

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

Eriksen, Thomas H. 1996. "Ethnicity, race, class and nation." In *Ethnicity*. Oxford University Press. (Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

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

Geertz, Clifford. 1977. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. Basic Books. Chapter 10. (Available at <http://hdl.handle.net.ezp.lib.rochester.edu/2027/hep.01005.0001.001>)

Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. "What is ethnic identity and does it matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9(1): 397-424. (Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

### **Week Three (1/27): Economic and institutional explanations of ethnic politics (152 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. (Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Laitin, David D. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7. (Required book)

Additional reading for graduate students:

Gourevitch, P.A. 1979. "The reemergence of 'peripheral nationalisms': Some comparative speculations on the spatial distribution of political leadership and economic growth." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 21(3): 303-322.

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

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

Posner, Daniel N. 2005. *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 4-8. (Required book)

Additional reading for graduate students:

Karl Deutsch. 1942. "International affairs: The trend of European nationalism—the language aspect." *American Political Science Review* 36(3): 533-41.

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

Hale, Henry E. 2008. *The Foundations of Ethnic Politics: Separatism and States and Nations in Eurasia and the World*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-4.  
(Required book)

Brubaker, Rogers. 2006. *Ethnicity without Groups*. Harvard University Press. Chapters 1-3.  
(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Additional reading for graduate students:

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Verso.

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

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

Amorim Neto, Octavio and Gary Cox. 1997 "Electoral institutions, cleavage structures and the number of parties." *American Journal of Political Science* 41(1): 149-174.  
(Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2111712>)

Horowitz, D.L. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. University of California Press. Chapters 7 and 8.  
(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Ferree, Karen E. 2006. "Explaining South Africa's racial census." *The Journal of Politics* 68(04): 802-814.  
(Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4639910>)

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

Frymer, Paul. 1999. *Uneasy Alliances: Race and Party Competition in America*. Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-6.  
(Available through Rochester's ebrary)

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

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

Lijphart, Arend. 2004. "Constitutional design for divided societies." *Journal of Democracy* 15(2): 96-109.  
(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Reilly, Benjamin. 2002. "Electoral systems for divided societies." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 156-170.  
(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Chandra, Kanchan. 2005. "Ethnic parties and democratic stability." *Perspectives on Politics* 3(2): 235-252.  
(Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3688028>)

Birnir, Jóhanna Kristín. 2006. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 6

(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Additional reading for graduate students:

Rabushka, Alvin, and Kenneth A. Shepsle. 1972. *Politics in Plural societies: A Theory of Democratic Instability*. Merrill.

### **Week Nine (3/24): Ethnic violence (179 pages)**

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

(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. 2010. "Why do ethnic groups rebel? New data and analysis." *World Politics* 62(01): 87-119.

(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Horowitz, Donald L. 2003. *The Deadly Ethnic Riot*. University of California Press. Chapters 3, 6, 9.

(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Additional reading for graduate students:

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 1996. "Explaining interethnic cooperation." *The American Political Science Review* 90(4): 715-735.

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

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

Wilkinson, S.I. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-5.

(Available through Rochester's ebrary and ordered through the bookstore)

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

(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

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

Prunier, G. 2008. *Darfur: A 21st Century Genocide*, 3rd edition. Cornell University Press. All.

(Required book)

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

Easterly, William, and Ross Levine. 1997. "Africa's growth tragedy: Policies and ethnic divisions." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112(4): 1203-1250.

(Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2951270>)

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

(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

Kasara, Kimuli. 2007. "Tax me if you can: Ethnic geography, democracy and the taxation of agriculture in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 101(1): 159-172.

(Available through Blackboard site for IR/PSC 252)

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

(Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/117206>)

Additional reading for graduate students:

Alesina, A., R. Baqir, and W. Easterly. 1999. "Public goods and ethnic divisions." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114(4): 1243-1284.

**Final paper due May 1, 5 pm.**