

University of Rochester – PSC/IR 267  
Spring 2024  
Monday/Wednesday 2-3:15pm  
Goergen 108

## **Identity, Ethnicity and Nationalism**

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Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm (please wear a mask)

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### **Course Description**

This course explores the concepts of identity, ethnicity and nationalism from a comparative perspective. Drawing upon theories from political science, anthropology, sociology and economics, we will examine how identity is defined and how societies use these constructions for, among other things, nation-building, war, and party competition. Theoretical readings will be supplemented with empirical studies from developed and developing countries across different time periods.

### **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend lectures every Monday and Wednesday and keep up with the readings. Lectures will be interspersed with discussions of the readings.

Participation: Regular, active and informed participation is expected; participation is worth 10% of the grade. It is based on showing up for class, answering questions during discussion of the lectures and readings, and correctly completing brief pop quizzes. Pop quizzes will be distributed (randomly chosen and unannounced) in a handful of lectures. They will be easy and are designed to make sure that you are doing the reading. If you are not present at lecture, you cannot get credit for the quiz unless you notified me (in advance of the lecture) that you cannot attend that lecture for some legitimate reason (e.g., illness; severe injuries or other medical conditions; religious or cultural holidays; athletic or debate competitions; or weddings, funerals, or other major life-cycle events). I will not penalize your participation grade for occasional absences for these legitimate reasons listed above.

Midterm and Final: There is an in-class midterm exam (worth 35% of the grade) and a cumulative final exam (worth 55% of the grade) during final exam period. The final is currently set for May 6 starting at 4 pm per the Registrar. Because the timing could change, ***DO NOT** arrange to leave for break before the end of the exam period. Barring extraordinary circumstances, there will be no make-up midterm or final exams.*

**Readings**

In this course, we will read a combination of books, book chapters and journal articles. The books are available for purchase at the Bookstore or, alternatively, are on reserve at Rush Rhees Library. Journal articles and chapters in edited volumes are accessible through Blackboard.

**Texts available for purchase at the Bookstore**

Hutchinson, John and Anthony D. Smith (eds). Ethnicity. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1996  
(referred to in the syllabus as the *Ethnicity Reader*)

Hutchinson, John and Anthony D. Smith (eds). Nationalism. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1994  
(Referred to in the syllabus as the *Nationalism Reader*)

Meguid, Bonnie M. Party Competition between Unequals: Strategies and Electoral Fortunes in Western Europe. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2008.  
(available as e-reserve at Rush Rhees).

Novic, Sara. Girl at War. New York: Random House, 2016

Waters, Mary. Ethnic Options. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.

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This course follows the College credit hour policy for four-credit courses. This course meets twice weekly for 3 academic hours per week. The course also includes independent out-of-class assignments for 50 minutes per week. In this course, students will complete the enriched independent study activities using readings and other class materials. These activities include reading articles about course topics in the newspaper and watching films. Such activities will be listed in the weekly assignments below.

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**Academic Honesty Policy**

All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty)

*In this course, the following additional requirements are in effect:*

You are encouraged to discuss course readings and lectures with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another person, outside of Professor Meguid (or, if relevant, Writing Fellows acting in their official capacity). For this course, AI, such as Chat GPT, may NOT be used.

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### **Disability Resources**

The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators in the Office of Disability Resources can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the Office of Disability Resources at: <http://disability@rochester.edu>; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall.

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## **SECTION I: ETHNICITY**

### **January 17 and 22: Course Introduction and What is Ethnicity and Ethnic Identity? Primordialist and Constructivist Approaches to Ethnic Identity**

*Ethnicity Reader*: Chapter 4 (Eriksen), Chapter 6 (Geertz), Chapter 7 (Eller and Coughlin) and Chapter 9 (Van den Berghe).

“Cumulative Findings in the Study of Ethnic Politics.” Symposium in APSA-CP, Winter 2001. Essays by Chandra, Wilkinson and Van Evera.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/80awywireuszt58ejf4rek3a6f43yzxj>

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times*, *Wall Street Journal* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about ethnicity.

### **January 24 and 29: Variations on Ethnic Constructivism**

Anderson, Benedict, Imagined Communities. London: Verso, 1983. pages 1-65.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/fyl532yn0vk5yhw4z2ojsi6hf4ly18pw>

*Ethnicity Reader*, Chapter 15 (Hechter).

Bates, Robert H. “Modernization, Ethnic Competition and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa.” In State versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas. Eds. Donald Rothchild and Victor Olorunsola. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1983. 152-171.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/am24p8adyznfz0mf45bj8f1m9rzkr16m>

Trevor-Roper, Hugh. “The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland.” In The Invention of Tradition. Eds. Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1983.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/if9znorrf0d8iwv7nnllm71kx2ei2on4>

For the independent out-of-class assignment: watch one of the videos in the Blood and Belonging series. More information about the streaming video choices will be handed out this week.

### **January 31 and February 5: Variations on Ethnic Constructivism II**

Laitin, David. "Hegemony and Religious Conflict." In Bringing the State Back In. Ed. R.B. Evans, D. Rueschmeyer, and T. Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1985. 285-316.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/t7hs4tnze7rp9q81oyn4o690qsfkuehz>

Posner, Daniel. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." American Political Science Review. 98.4 (2004): 529-545.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/ahkdqm5bfsxmusic112ouczm5nugbd83>

Waters, Mary. Ethnic Options. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990. Chapters 1-3.

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read a non-US newspaper for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about ethnicity.

### **February 7: Is Ethnicity a Special Identity?**

Htun, Mala. "Is Gender like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups." Perspectives in Politics. 2.3(2004): 439-458.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/sbla8pll27742xx42zjfwk6qgcn6yv6t>

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times*, *Wall Street Journal* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about gender politics.

## **SECTION II: NATIONALISM**

### **February 12: What is Nationalism? How Does it Differ From Ethnic Pride?**

*Nationalism Reader*. Chapter 1 (Renan), Chapter 2 (Lenin), Chapter 3 (Weber)

### **February 14, 19 and 21: Approaches to Nationalism**

*Nationalism Reader*. Chapter 8 (Kedourie), Chapters 9 and 10 (Gellner), Chapter 11 (Nairn), Chapter 12 (Hobsbawm).

Lenin, V.I. The Right of Nations to Self-Determination: Select Writings. New York: International Publishers, 1951. pp 65-85.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/2185hz951vivebugcfpzvzyxmivivno2h>

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times*, *Wall Street Journal* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about national identity.

***No class on February 26: Professor Meguid is away***

### **February 28 and March 4 and 6: Citizenship as a Determinant of Nationalism?**

Shevel, Oxana. "The Politics of Citizenship Policy in New States." *Comparative Politics*. 41.3(2009): 273-91.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/9p6u5dz18ybrj6g92q6azx3bx53gxcdl>

Howard, Marc Morjé "The Impact of the Far Right on Citizenship Policy in Europe." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. 36.5(2010): 735-51.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/lwzj2izivkken3o23h3aubg01ymnx082>

Additional Reading TBD

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Choose a country (not the US or a European country) and look up its citizenship and nationalization requirements.

***NB: Spring Break: No class March 11 and 13***

### **March 18: Review for Midterm**

*No additional reading*

### **March 20: In-class Midterm**

## **SECTION III: ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM AS INDEPENDENT VARIABLES**

### **March 25, 27 and April 1: Ethnic War**

Glenny, Misha. The Balkans: Nationalism, War, and the Great Powers 1804-2011. London: Penguin, 2012. Map before Introduction (The Balkans, 1945-89, and The Former Yugoslavia, 1999), Chapter 9 (pp. 634-662)

<https://rochester.box.com/s/8co8k0u6rlnflrzdknuspbmuk9yefr0a>

Novic, Sara. Girl at War. New York: Random House, 2016. Entire

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Watch the film Hotel Rwanda.

**April 3, 8 and 10: Nationalist War**

Parsons, Michael. The Falklands War. Sutton Publishing, 2000. Entire.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/bq4oah23hom8wrgd31kdec2oq4p5jj3p>

Cutts Dougherty, Katharine, Margaret Eisenhart and Paul Webley. "The Role of Social Representations and National Identities in the Development of Territorial Knowledge: A Study of Political Socialization in Argentina and England." American Educational Research Journal. 29.4(1992): 809-835.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/gka2hwhh8by4xz6jsvqbs6emq99ikwf6>

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read articles on the Falklands War and the continuing struggle between the UK and Argentina over this set of islands.

**April 15 and 17: Party Politics and Ethnic Parties**

Horowitz, Donald L. Ethnic Groups in Conflict. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985. Chapter 7

<https://rochester.box.com/s/uxbsizvqy1jrpjf7dl0t6dptnm8tj9d0>

Meguid, Bonnie M. Party Competition between Unequals: Strategies and Electoral Fortunes in Western Europe. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2008. Chapters 2 and 7. (*e-reserve at Rush Rhees*)

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read the *NY Times*, *Wall Street Journal* or *Washington Post* for 50 minutes this week, focusing on articles about ethnic parties.

**April 22 and 24: Party Politics and "Nationalist Parties"**

Norris, Pippa and Ronald Inglehart. Cultural Backlash. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2019. Chapter 4.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/jlcm12e8ppmxwtmpxjsqdvfgvpygzur>

Meguid, Bonnie M. Party Competition between Unequals: Strategies and Electoral Fortunes in Western Europe. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2008. Chapters 1 and 6. (*e-reserve at Rush Rhees*)

Norris, Pippa. "It's not just Trump: Authoritarian populism is rising across the west." *Washington Post*. Monkey Cage blog, March 11, 2016.

<https://rochester.box.com/s/kttvnfkhfm6le87agam5sc13wvkjdqs4>

For the independent out-of-class assignment: Read newspaper about radical right parties and their references to the “nation” and “national community.” Who is in it, and who is not?

**April 29: Course Wrap-up and Review**

***\*\*Note: There is a cumulative final exam currently scheduled for May 6 starting at 4pm. But confirm on Registrar’s website.***