

GOVT 84.39: Comparative Ethnic Politics

2A, Silsby 312

Winter 2020

Instructor: Katharine Aha

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Course Description

In this seminar we will explore critical questions concerning the impact of ethnic diversity on politics across a wide range of societies. First, we will discuss the construction of ethnic identities, and how these identities are mobilized politically. Second, we will examine the impact of ethnic mobilization on democratic politics. Third, we will look at whether and when mobilized ethnic identities contribute to an increased likelihood of ethnic conflict. Fourth, we will turn to an in-depth case study of Yugoslavia to illustrate theories discussed throughout the semester. The goals of this course are to give you a deep understanding of both major and new debates in comparative ethnic politics, as well as to expose you to a variety of different cases and methodologies. You will get extensive practice in analyzing academic sources, and articulating your own arguments both in class and through your writing. Additionally, you will be able to build upon your own interests through a research paper on a topic of your choosing, and this course will allow you to develop skills towards completing a successful research project.

Course Website (Canvas)

The course website is on Canvas. I will use the course website to post the syllabus and other course information in an easily accessible location, and you will be expected to upload assignments on Canvas throughout the semester. Please let me know immediately if you have any issues logging into the website.

Course Grade Components

15%: Participation

20%: Response papers

10%: Discussion leading

15%: Preliminary research paper draft and peer review

10%: Presentation

30%: Final research paper

Course Requirements

Participation

This course is a seminar. As such, students are expected to attend all classes and to actively participate in classroom discussions, coming prepared by having completed and thought about the assigned readings.

Response papers

During the course of the semester, you will write four response papers (two to three pages). These papers are not a summary of the readings of the week, but should instead synthesize the main themes and arguments, and assess these arguments and/or the evidence used to support these arguments, or draw connections on the readings for the week to previously assigned material. At the end of the paper, please pose at least two questions that emerge from the material that you think are worth discussing in class. These papers are due on Canvas by 9:00am the day that they are due.

Research paper

Your main project for the semester will be to conduct your own research and write a 20-25 page research paper on a topic of your choice. The paper must be about ethnic politics (although does not have to be on an issue directly covered in class), and should reference both materials covered in the class, as well as other sources. You will present your work during the last two weeks of class. The final paper is due on March 5th, and will be graded based on the consistency of your argument and use evidence, as well as the extent to which you have improved upon the preliminary draft. We will meet one-on-one during the 2nd week of class's X-hour to discuss topic ideas.

Prior to submitting the final paper you will submit the following:

- research question + working bibliography (Week 3)
- intro + outline (Week 5)
- preliminary draft (at least 15 pages) (Week 7)

After each piece is submitted, we will also meet one-on-one during X-hours to discuss the direction of the project. The preliminary draft will be peer reviewed, allowing you to gain insight on how readers understand your paper, as well as allowing you to practice giving constructive feedback.

Due dates

Response papers: Day of class by 9am (sign up for dates during 1st week of class)

Research question and working bibliography: January 21st by start of class

Intro and outline: February 4th by start of class

Preliminary draft: February 19th (X-hour)

Presentations: March 3 & 5

Final research paper: March 5 by start of class

Readings

This course has four books required books:

- Gellner, Ernest. 2006. *Nations and Nationalism, 2nd Edition*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Birnir, Johanna Kristin. 2007. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Wilkinson, Steven. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Silber, Laura and Allan Little. 1997. *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation: Revised and Updated*. New York: Penguin Books.

All other readings can be found on Canvas.

Course Schedule

January 7 & 9: Introduction

Readings:

- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States."
 - o pp 1-12
- Horowitz, Donald L. 2000. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
 - o pp 51-92
- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54(4).
 - o pp 845-857

January 14: The formation of ethnic groups

Readings:

- Gellner, Ernest. 2006. *Nations and Nationalism, 2nd Edition*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
 - o Chapters 1-4, 8
- Posner, Daniel N. 2003. "The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Cleavages." *Comparative Politics* 35(2): 127-146.
- Darden, Keith and Harris Mylonas. 2016. "Threats to Territorial Integrity, National Mass Schooling, and Linguistic Commonality." *Comparative Political Studies* 49(11): 1446-1479

January 15 (X-hour): Individual meetings to discuss paper topic ideas

January 16: Political salience of ethnic identities (I)

Readings:

- Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Differences: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529-545.
- Flesken, Anaid. 2018. "Why Ethnic Parties Form: Evidence from Bolivia." *Nations and Nationalism*. 24(4): 1162-1184.

January 21: Political salience of ethnic identities (II)

*Research question and working bibliography due

Readings:

- Bustikova, Lenka. 2014. "Revenge of the Radical Right." *Comparative Political Studies* 47(12): 1738-1765.
- Charnysh, Volha. 2015. "Historical Legacies of Interethnic Competition: Anti-Semitism and the EU Referendum in Poland." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(13): 1711-1745.

January 22 (X-hour): Individual meetings to discuss question + bibliography

January 23: Voting and ethnic identities (I)

Readings:

- Birnir, Johanna Kristin. 2007. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

- Chapters 1-5

January 28: Voting and ethnic identities (II)

Readings:

- Ichino, Nahomi and Noah L. Nathan. 2013. "Crossing the Line: Local Ethnic Geography and Voting in Ghana." *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 344-361.
- Adida, Claire. Jessica Gottlieb, Eric Kramon and Gwyneth McClendon. 2017. "Reducing or Reinforcing In-Group Preferences? An Experiment on Information and Ethnic Voting." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 12: 437-477.

January 30: Ethnic heterogeneity and democratic stability

Readings:

- Beissinger, Mark R. 2008. "A New Look at Ethnicity and Democratization." *Journal of Democracy* 19(3): 85-97.
- Birnir, Johanna Kristin. 2007. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
 - Chapters 6-8
- Gerring, John, Michael Hoffman and Dominic Zarecki. 2018. "The Diverse Effects of Diversity on Democracy." *British Journal of Political Science* 48(2): 283-314.

February 4: Ethnic heterogeneity and contentious politics

***Rough draft of intro and outline due**

Readings:

- Wilkinson, Steven. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
 - Chapters 1-3, 5, 7

February 5 (X-hour): Individual meetings to discuss intro and outline

February 6: Ethnic heterogeneity and conflict (I)

Readings:

- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.
- Jenne, Erin. 2004. "A Bargaining Theory of Minority Demands: Explaining the Dog that Did Not Bite in 1990s Yugoslavia." *International Studies Quarterly* 48(4): 729-754.

February 11: Ethnic heterogeneity and conflict (II)

Readings:

- Neudorfer, Natascha S. and Ulrike G. Theuerkauf. 2014. "Buying War Not Peace: The Influence of Corruption on the Risk of Ethnic War." *Comparative Political Studies* 47(13): 1856-1886.
- Siroky, David S. and John Cuffe. 2015. "Lost Autonomy, Nationalism and Separatism." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(1): 3-34.

February 13: Constructing the state after conflict in ethnically divided societies

Readings:

- Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars." *International Security* 20(4); 136-175.
- Roeder, Philip G and Donald S. Rothchild. 2005. *Sustainable Peace: Power and Democracy after Civil Wars*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
 - o Selection
- Nagle, John. 2016. "Between Entrenchment, Reform and Transformation: Ethnicity and Lebanon's Consociational Democracy." *Democratization* 23(7): 1144-1161.

February 18: Yugoslavia (I)

Readings:

- Silber, Laura and Allan Little. 1997. *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation, Revised and Updated*. New York: Penguin Books.
 - o Parts 1 and 2
- Fearon, James D. 1995. "Ethnic War as a Commitment Problem." Presented at the 1994 Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

February 19 (X-hour): Rough draft and peer review – bring two copies to class

February 20: Yugoslavia (II)

Readings:

- Silber, Laura and Allan Little. 1997. *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation, Revised and Updated*. New York: Penguin Books.
 - o Part 3

February 25: Yugoslavia (III)

Readings:

- Silber, Laura and Allan Little. 1997. *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation, Revised and Updated*. New York: Penguin Books.
 - o Part 4
- Martin, Felix and Gerald Knaus. 2003. "Lessons from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Travails of the European Raj." *Journal of Democracy* 14(3): 60-74.

February 27: Yugoslavia (IV)

Readings:

- Belloni, Roberto. 2004. "Peacebuilding and Consociational Electoral Engineering in the Balkans." *International Peacekeeping* 11(2): 334-353.
- Jenne, Erin K. 2009. "The Paradox of Ethnic Partition: Lessons from *de facto* Partition in Bosnia and Kosovo." *Regional & Federal Studies* 19(2): 273-289.
- Vachudova, Milada Anna. 2014. "EU Leverage and National Interests in the Balkans: The Puzzles of Enlargement Ten Years On." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 52(1): 122-138.

March 3 & 5: Student presentations and wrap-up

***March 5th research paper due**

