

**Ethnic Politics I**  
**Political Science 17.504**

Thursdays 3-5  
Room E51-393

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Purpose and Basic Outline of the Course:

This course is designed to provide students with a broad overview of the major theories on the relationship between ethnicity and politics. The first section discusses general issues of identity choice and constraint on choice; the second section applies the approaches and concepts of the first section to democracy and democratization in multiethnic states; the third section expands the application of theory to a wide range of controversial issues—memory and apology, the politics of the census, ethnic war and violence, and partition. Graduate students from all subfields and methodological backgrounds are encouraged to take the course regardless of their previous level of acquaintance with ethnic politics.

This course is normally the first semester of a year-long sequence on ethnic politics. This course sequence has three goals: 1) To give students an overview of the field of ethnic politics with a particular focus on theoretical and methodological innovations in this field 2) To assist students in producing original research on questions in this field and 3) To develop the capacity of students to comment critically and constructively on ongoing research. Ethnic Politics I aims for breadth over depth. It covers many works in the “canon” of texts on ethnic politics as well as addressing many major topics. Ethnic Politics II covers some of these topics in greater depth. However, each semester is self-contained and students may take the course in either or both semesters. For students seeking an introduction to the subfield of ethnic politics, the first semester course will be sufficient. Students who are conducting or expect to conduct research projects related to ethnic politics (e.g. dissertations, major research papers, or articles) may want to take both courses in sequence.

Requirements

The course is divided into three sections. A paper will be due at the end of each section. The first two papers should be 7-10 pages in length while the third should be 12-15 pages. Subject to approval by the instructors, students may substitute a research paper (no longer than twenty pages in length) for the final paper. There will also be three short papers, two pages in length. Grades will be assigned according to the following formula:

Paper 1: 20%  
Paper 2: 20%  
Paper 3: 30%  
Short Papers: 10%  
Class Participation: 20%

### Class Schedule

September 8: Organizational meeting

#### **I. General Issues of Identity Choice and Constraint on Identity Choice**

September 15: Introductory session: (Nobles and Petersen)

- a. Amin Maalouf, *In the Name of Identity: Violence and the Need to Belong* (New York: Penguin Books, 2003).

#### SHORT PAPER DUE

September 22: General: Issues of Identity Choice and Constraint on Choice (Nobles and Petersen)

- a. Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*, Chapters 1 and 2.
- b. Orlando Patterson, "Context and Choice in Ethnic Allegiance," in Nathan Glazer and Daniel Moynihan, *Ethnicity*, pp. 305 - 349.
- c. Anthony Smith, *The Nation in History, Historiographical Debates About Ethnicity and Nationalism*, (Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, 2000). pp. 52-77.
- d. Clifford Geertz, "The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States" in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973) pp. 255-269.

September 29: Variants of Constructivism: (Petersen)

- a. David Laitin, *Hegemony and Culture*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983).

October 6: Modernization, War, Borders and their impact on identity formation (Nobles)

- a. Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983), Chapters 1-4, 10.
- b. Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States*, (Cambridge: Basil Blackwell, 1992), Chapters 3 and 4.
- c. Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), Chapters 1-4, 8.

PAPER #1 DUE

## II. Ethnicity and Democracy

October 13: Democratic Engineering: (Petersen)

- a. Benjamin Reilly, *Democracy in Divided Societies: Electoral Engineering for Conflict Management* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), Chapters 1, 2, 5, and 8.
- b. George Tsebelis, "A Rational Choice Approach to Consociationalism," in Tsebelis, *Nested Games: Rational Choice in Comparative Politics* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990), pp. 159-186.
- c. Arend Lijphart, *Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977), pp. 1-52.

SHORT PAPER DUE

October 20: Democracy: Modernization/State/Democracy (Nobles)

- a. Liah Greenfeld, *Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992). Introduction, 1, 3, Afterword.
- b. Jack Snyder, *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2000). Chapters 1-4.
- c. Horowitz, Chapter 7.

## Case Studies on Democratization in Multiethnic settings

October 27: South Africa (Nobles)

- a. Donald Horowitz, *A Democratic South Africa? Constitutional Engineering in a Divided Society* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991).

November 3: Yugoslav Collapse and Bosnian Reconstruction (Petersen)

- a. Sumantra Bose, *Bosnia After Dayton* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), Chapter Five, pp. 204-252.
- b. Steven Burg and Michael Berbaum, "Community, Integration, and Stability in Multinational Yugoslavia," *American Political Science Review* 83: 535-554.
- c. Tone Bringa, *Being Muslim the Bosnian Way: Identity and Community in a Central Bosnian Village* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), Introduction and Chapter 1.

d. Sabrina Ramet, *Nationalism and Federalism in Yugoslavia, 1962-1991* (Bloomington, Indiana: University of Indiana Press, 1992), Chapters 1, 2, 3, 13.

PAPER #2 DUE

### III. Other issues

November 10: Memory and Apology (Nobles)

a. James L. Gibson, *Overcoming Apartheid: Can Truth Reconcile a Divided Nation?* (2004), chapters 1-4, 6.

b. Peter Maass, "The Secrets of Mississippi," *The New Republic*, 21 December 1998, and "Should the Mississippi Files Have Been Reopened?" *The New York Times Magazine*, August 30, 1998.

SHORT PAPER DUE

November 17: The Politics of the Census (Nobles)

a. Melissa Nobles, *Shades of Citizenship: Race and the Census in Modern Politics* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000).

November 24: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

December 1: Ethnic Violence—Ethnic War and Partition (Petersen)

a. Robert Hayden, "Schindler's Fate: Genocide, Ethnic Cleansing, and Population Transfers." *Slavic Review* 55 (1996): 727-748.

b. Chaim Kauffman, "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars." *International Security* 20 (1996): 136-175.

c. Nicholas Sambanis, "Partition as a Solution to Ethnic War: An Empirical Critique of the Theoretical Literature," *World Politics* 52 (July 2000): 437-83.

d. Alexander Downes, "The Holy Land Divided: Defending Partition as a Solution to Ethnic Wars," *Security Studies* 10 (Summer 2001): 58-116.

December 8: Ethnic Violence—Riots (Petersen)

a. Donald Horowitz, *The Deadly Ethnic Riot* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), 1-70.

b. Steve Wilkinson, to be selected.

c. Elliot Rudwick, *Race Riot in East Saint Louis, July 2, 1917* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1982), pp. 3-57.

d. Ashutosh Varshney, *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India* (Yale University Press, 2002), to be selected.

PAPER #3 DUE (date to be determined)