

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

## Ethnic Politics

Professor Meguid  
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Office hours: Mondays, 3-4:30pm

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

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

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

Karl Deutsc

the language

*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.

(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)**

