PSC/IR 252: Ethnic Politics

Prof. Bethany Lacina
Thursdays, 2-4:40
Morey 504

This course takes up three questions: What is ethnicity and when is it politically important? How does ethnic politics matter for economic outcomes? What is the relationship between ethnic politics and political violence?

Instructor

Professor Lacina
Email: blacina@ur.rochester.edu
Office: Harkness 322
Office hours: Thursdays, 9:30–11:30 or by appointment

Course Requirements

1. Students should complete all assigned reading before coming to class. All readings are available through Blackboard.

2. There will be a midterm and a cumulative final, each worth 30% of the final grade. There are no make-up exams, so please make any travel plans accordingly. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

3. If you are entitled to examination accommodations, please coordinate these with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in advance of the examination (see http://www.rochester.edu/college/disability/index.html). Students will not be able to obtain special examination accommodations directly from the professor.

4. The remaining 40% of the grade will be based on out-of-class assignments. An overview of the assignments for the class appears below. The exact instructions and grading rubric for each assignment will be distributed in class.

5. Assignments are due by the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments will be submitted by email unless otherwise specified.

6. 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 after 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.

7. Requirements for students who are not in the writing intensive section of the course:

Out of class assignment due 2/8. A poster and one page memo that explain the politicization of ethnicity in a place where you have lived using theories from class. Worth 10% of final grade.

Midterm (3/15) worth 30% of grade.

Cumulative final (4/9) worth 30% of grade.

Regrading

If a student wishes to challenge the grade assigned to all or part of an assignment, the following steps must be taken:

1. Email the professor a request for a re-grade (see below) within 1 week of the assignment being returned to the class.

2. A request for a re-grade must explain which aspect(s) of the grading rubric the student believes should have been assigned a higher score. For each disputed aspect, students must justify why they should be given a higher grade given the standards in the grading rubric and cite specific materials in the readings or lectures if applicable.

3. The professor will re-grade all aspects of the assignment. The students final score on the assignment may go up or down or be unchanged.

Academic honesty

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. The College Board on Academic Honesty provides further information on our policies and procedures: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. All written work must properly format quotations, use citations, and include a bibliography where necessary. ALL cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Honesty Board.

Grading scale

A	93%	100%
A-	90%	92.$\overline{9}$%
B+	87%	89.$\overline{9}$%
B	84%	86.$\overline{9}$%
B-	80%	83.$\overline{9}$%
C+	77%	79.$\overline{9}$%
C	74%	76.$\overline{9}$%
C-	70%	73.$\overline{9}$%
D+	67%	69.$\overline{9}$%
D	64%	66.$\overline{9}$%
D-	60%	63.$\overline{9}$%
E	0%	59.$\overline{9}$%

Class schedule

Reading for the week must be completed before class.

Jan 18: Why ethnicity?

Jan 25: When is ethnicity politically important? Economic competition

Eriksen, Thomas H. 1996. "Ethnicity, race, class and nation." In *Ethnicity*. Oxford University Press. Blackboard. (7 pages)

Habyarimana, James et al. 2009. *Coethnicity*. Russell Sage Foundation. Pp. 1-13. Blackboard. (14 pages)

Hale, Henry E. 2004. "Explaining Ethnicity." *Comparative Political Studies*. http://cps.sagepub.com/content/37/4/458 (28 pages)

Feb 1: When is ethnicity politically important? Political competition

Bates, Robert H. 1983. "Modernization, ethnic competition, and the rationality of politics in contemporary Africa." In *State Versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas*. Westview Press. Blackboard. (20 pages)

Horowitz, Donald. (1985) *Ethnic groups in conflict*. University of California Press. Pp. 318-332, 342-364. Blackboard. (36 pages)

Posner, Daniel N. 2005. *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 130-158. Blackboard. (29 pages)

Feb 8: When is ethnicity politically important? History and psychology

Horowitz, Donald. 1985. *Ethnic groups in conflict*. University of California Press. Pp. 141-207. Blackboard. (67 pages)

Petersen, Roger D. 2002. *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*. Cambridge University Press, Pp. 17-28, 87-94. Blackboard. (20 pages)

Feb 15: When is ethnicity politically important? The role of migration

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2011. "Sons of the Soil, Migrants, and Civil War." *World Development*. http://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2009.11.031 (13 pages)

Wong, Cara J. 2010. *Boundaries of obligation in American politics: Geographic, national, and racial communities*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-17, Chapter 4. Blackboard. (58 pages)

Feb 22: Ethnic politics and democratic stability

Birnir, Jóhanna Kristín. 2006. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-16, 41-59 , 136-145. Blackboard. (45 pages)

Lijphart, Arend. 2004. "Constitutional design for divided societies." *Journal of Democracy* http://doi.org/10.1353/jod.2004.0029 (15 pages)

Reilly, Benjamin. 2002. "Electoral systems for divided societies." *Journal of Democracy* http://doi.org/10.1353/jod.2002.0029 (15 pages)

Mar 1: Ethnic politics and democratic inequality

Alexander, Michelle. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color-blindness*. The New Press. Pp. 1-16. Blackboard. (16 pages)

Forman, James, Jr. 2017. *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Pages TBA. Blackboard.

Mar 8: Ethnic politics, poverty, and economic inequality

Miguel, Edward. 2004. "Tribe or nation? Nation building and public goods in Kenya versus Tanzania." *World Politics*. http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0043887100004330 (36 pages)

Ottaviano, Gianmarco I. P. and Giovanni Peri. 2006. "The economic value of cultural diversity: Evidence from US cities." *Journal of Economic Geography*. Pp. 9–19. Blackboard (11 pages)

Putnam, Robert D. 2007. "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century." *Scandinavian Political Studies*. http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9477.2007.00176.x (38 pages)

Mar 15: In-class midterm

Mar 29: Social explanations of ethnic violence

Cohen, Dov and Richard E. Nisbett. 1994. "Self-protection and the culture of honor: Explaining Southern violence." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. http://doi.org/10.1177/0146167294205012 (17 pages)

Green, Donald P. and Rachel L. Seher. 2003. "What role does prejudice play in ethnic conflict?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. http://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.6.121901.085642 (23 pages)

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. "Ethnic conflict and civil society: India and beyond." *World Politics*. http://doi.org/10.1353/wp.2001.0012 (37 pages)

Apr 5: Institutional explanations of ethnic violence

Jha, Saumitra. 2007. "Maintaining peace across ethnic lines: New lessons from the past." *The Economics of Peace and Security Journal*. Blackboard. (5 pages)

Wilkinson, Steven I. 2004. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-9, 154-171, 204-241. Blackboard. (65 pages)

Apr 12: Movie screening

No new reading.

Apr 19: Ideologies of violence

Hull, Isabel V. 2003. "Military culture and the production of 'Final Solutions' in the colonies: The example of Wilhelminian Germany." In *The Specter of Genocide.* Cambridge University Press. Blackboard. (22 pages)

Rhodes, Jane. 1993. "The visibility of race and media history." *Critical Studies in Mass Communication*