

PS 106EC—Special Topics
Spring 2018

ETHNIC CONFLICT

MW 5:00-6:15 PM
Phelps 3523

Instructor:	William G. Nomikos	Office Hours:	Wednesdays 3-5 PM
Email:	wnomikos@polsci.ucsb.edu		Sign up in advance
Office:	Ellison Hall 3705		

Ethnic conflicts have become the prevailing political crises of our times. This course will introduce students to the study of ethnic conflict in political science, overviewing both classics as well as more recent research in the field. We will study the sources of ethnic identification; debates about the role of ethnicity in the origins, fighting, and termination of conflict; and international intervention and peacekeeping. Students will learn about themes relating to ethnic conflict and specific countries, which they will select at the beginning of the course. Regions covered include (but are not limited to) Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Academic Honesty

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. All suspicions of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs according to University policy.

Please do not cheat in this class. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the intentional or unintentional use of someone's ideas as your own), use of cheat sheets, downloading information from the web without proper citation, copying someone's work, or presenting as your own work papers collected in group files or previously written for other courses. Students who are caught cheating on an assignment will receive an automatic 0 on that assignment and face additional academic sanction by the university. It's really tough to get away with cheating, especially with plagiarism. For your own sake, please take my word for it and do not cheat. Please learn to use citations properly; if you don't know how, or have other questions about writing, visit the writing center.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation (20 points) You are expected to attend class regularly, to be on time, and to remain in class for its duration. You are also expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material you have read.

Weekly Discussion Posts (20 points) Each week, before Monday's class, you will upload a discussion post to the board discussing one of the following week's readings. There are seven weeks of readings and posts will be worth 3 points each so you can earn a total of 21 points (1 point extra credit).

Debate Statement (30 points) You will be assigned to groups of 3-4 and . We will debate the chosen topics at the end of the course. Each group member will complete a group evaluation form. 5 of the 30 points for the debate statement will be awarded on the basis of the these evaluation.

Final Exam (30 points) The final will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer. It will cover material from the midterm to the end of the course.

See Assignment Dates below for deadlines.

Grade Policy

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93-100	90-93	87-90	82-87	80-82	77-80	72-77	70-72	67-70	62-70	60-62	<60

Accommodations for Disability

If you have a documented disability for which I can make an accommodation, contact me as soon as possible.

Email Policy

You are welcome to email me at any time. However, I will only respond to student emails between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM from Monday to Friday. Please allow 24 hours for a response. If I have not responded within 24 hours, please send me a follow-up email (dont be shy about this-I get a lot of emails!).

Assignment Dates

Note: all discussion posts are due at 9 AM on the Monday preceding the topics they cover.

Weekday	Date	Assignment
Monday	April 9th	Posts on Ethnic Differences I and II
Monday	April 16th	Posts on Greed and Grievance and Beyond Gr. and Griev.
Monday	April 23rd	Posts on Security Dilemma and Peacekeeping
Monday	April 30th	Posts on Power-Sharing and Solving the Commitment Problem
Monday	May 7th	Posts on the Importance of Victory and Rwanda I
Monday	May 14th	Posts on Rwanda II and III
Monday	May 21st	Posts on Bosnia I and II
Friday	June 8th	Final paper due at 5 PM
Tuesday	June 12th	Final Exam (7:30-10:30PM)

Course Materials

All course materials, including book chapters, will be made available via Gaucho Space. Some of the books are available in the bookstore. All of the books are available via online retailers.

Classroom Discussion

All students are expected to be respectful of one another during classroom discussions. The readings are designed to inspire conversation. Many of the readings are controversial, both in political science and with a general audience. Students should feel free to express their opinion on these readings, respectfully, within the classroom. Students who are not respectful will lose participation points.

Electronics Policy

No laptops, tablets, or cell phones may be used during class. Please turn your phone to silent before class. If you wish to use your laptop or tablet to take notes, you may petition me to use it by bringing a typed, written note to my office explaining why you would like to use your laptop during class. If I see a student using a laptop, tablet, or cell phone without my explicit permission, I reserve the right to deduct points from that student's participation grade. This policy will be strictly enforced beginning with our Wednesday, April 9th class.

Course Schedule

Schedule subject to change. This schedule is current as of April 11, 2018. Please check Gaucho Space for latest version.

April 2nd: Introduction (M)

No reading.

Part I: Does Ethnicity Matter?

April 4th: Ethnic Identity (W)

- 1.) [Chandra \(2006\)](#), “What is Ethnic Identity and Does it Matter?” Focus on pp. 400-418, which is Chandra’s definition of ethnic identity.
- 2.) [Waters \(1990\)](#), “Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America,” pp. 16-51. This is a pretty breezy read. Mostly Waters just talks about interviews she’s conducted with Americans and reports how they frame their identities.

April 9th: Ethnic Differences I: Religion (M)

- 1.) [Kazantzakis \(1956\)](#), *Freedom and Death*, pp. 7-45. This is page-turning fiction so it should be a pretty easy read.
- 2.) [Bringa \(1995\)](#), *Being Muslim the Bosnian Way*, pp. 1-12 (“Introduction”).

April 11th: Ethnic Differences II: Race (W)

- 1.) [Smedley \(2017\)](#), “The History of the Idea of Race...and Why It Matters,” pp. 1-9. Text of a speech.
- 2.) [Coates \(2017\)](#), “the First White President.” This is a popular press article.

Part II: Causes of Ethnic Conflict

April 16th: Greed vs. Grievance (M)

[Collier and Hoeffler \(2004\)](#), “Greed and Grievance in Civil War.”

April 18th: Beyond Greed and Grievance (W)

No reading. Review Collier and Hoeffler.

April 23rd: the Security Dilemma (M)

[Posen \(1993\)](#), “The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict.”

Part III: Ending Ethnic Conflict

April 25th: Peacekeeping (W)

Read through [UN website on PKO deployment](#) and understand where missions deploy. Make sure you click through map.

April 30th: Power-Sharing (M)

[Hartzell and Hoddie \(2006\)](#), *Crafting Peace: Power-Sharing Institutions and the Negotiated Settlement of Civil Wars*, pp. 1-42 (Introduction and Chapter 1).

May 2nd: The Importance of Victory (M)

No reading.

May 7th: Solving the Commitment Problem

[Walter \(2002\)](#), *Committing to Peace*, pp. 1-43 (Chapters 1-2).

Part IV: Case studies

You should have started working on your debate statements at this point. There will be no new substantive material over the following 3 weeks, giving you enough time to meet in your groups and use the material learned in lecture and the readings to prepare for the debates.

The case studies (Rwanda and Bosnia) are designed to give you additional help for the debate—they focus on 1.) the root causes of conflict and 2.) whether international actors can end conflicts.

May 9th: Rwanda I: The Genocide (W)

[Power \(2002\)](#), “Rwanda: ‘Mostly in Listening Mode’.” Slightly longer but a journalistic book so it’s an easy read.

May 14th: Rwanda II: Why Did Peace Fail? (M)

Watch film “[Shaking Hands with the Devil](#).”

May 16th: Rwanda III: Would Intervention Have Helped? (W)

No new reading. Review Power reading.

May 21st: Bosnia I (M)

[Power \(2002\)](#), “Bosnia: No More Than Witnesses at a Funeral.” Slightly longer but a journalistic book so it’s an easy read.

May 23rd: Bosnia II (W)

Watch film “[We Are All Neighbors](#).”

Part V: Debates

May 28th: MEMORIAL DAY (M)

No class. No reading. Prepare for debates.

May 30th: Afghanistan Debate (W)

We will debate whether the United States should increase its troop presence in Afghanistan.

June 4th: Syria Debate (M)

We will debate whether or not the United States should intervene in Syria.

Conclusion

June 6th: Review (W)

No reading. Post questions for review online.

References

- Tone Bringa. *Being Muslim the Bosnian way: Identity and community in a central Bosnian village*. Princeton University Press, 1995.
- Kanchan Chandra. What is ethnic identity and does it matter? *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.*, 9:397–424, 2006.
- Ta-Nehisi Coates. The first white president. *the Atlantic*, Oct 2017.
- Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler. Greed and grievance in civil war. *Oxford Economic Papers*, 56(4):563–595, 2004.
- Caroline Hartzell and Matthew Hoddie. *Crafting Peace: Power-Sharing Institutions and the Negotiated Settlement of Civil Wars*. Penn State Press, University Park, Pennsylvania, 2006.
- Nikos Kazantzakis. *Freedom and Death*. Faber and Faber, 1956.
- Barry R Posen. The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict. *Survival*, 35(1):27–47, 1993.
- Samantha Power. *“A Problem from Hell”: America and the Age of Genocide*. Basic Books, 2002.
- Audrey Smedley. The history of the idea of race...and why it matters. *Race, Human Variation and Disease: Consensus and Frontiers*, 2017.
- Barbara F Walter. *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 2002.
- Mary C. Waters. *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America*. Univ of California Press, 1990.