

**Political Science 312: Ethnic Conflict
Spring Semester 2007**

Instructor: Matthew Hoddie
 Class Schedule: Tuesday/Thursday 4:40-5:55
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Scope and Purpose

In this class, we will examine theories about the sources of ethnic conflict and strategies that have the potential to contain these conflicts. The course material is divided into three sections. First, we will consider the different means by which governments have structured ethnic relations and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses associated with each approach. Second, we will discuss theories seeking to explain why these domestic arrangements for containing conflict have sometimes broken down and ethnic violence has emerged. Third, we will evaluate the costs and benefits associated with different strategies for facilitating the peaceful resolution of existing conflicts.

Course Prerequisites

The Undergraduate Catalog lists the introductory course in American National Government (POLS 206) as a prerequisite for this class. I also recommend that students have a familiarity with the concepts presented in the introductory classes in the fields of Comparative Politics (POLS 329) and World Politics (POLS 331).

Required Texts

Michael Brown, et al (eds). 2001. *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict: An International Security Reader* (Revised Edition). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Raymond C. Taras and Rajat Ganguly. 2006. *Understanding Ethnic Conflict: The International Dimension* (Third Edition). New York, NY: Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc.

Timothy Sisk. 1996. *Power Sharing and International Mediation in Ethnic Conflicts*. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace.

Barbara F. Walter and Jack Snyder (eds). 1999. *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Grading

Course grades will be determined by your performance on three examinations; each examination counts for a third of your grade. No early or late examinations will be offered. If a student has a university-excused absence for the day of an examination he or she will be required to write a 5-7 page research paper on a topic relevant to the missed test.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B118 of Cain Hall, or call 845-1637.

Course Materials Copyright

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, exams, and review sheets. Because these items are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Statement Regarding Plagiarism

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section “Scholastic Dishonesty.”

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments
This schedule is tentative and may require revision.

Perspectives on Ethnic Identity and the Structure of Inter-Ethnic Relations

Readings: Taras and Ganguly, pp. 1-13
 Mueller (*Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*), pp. 97-125

Section I State Regimes for Structuring Inter-Ethnic Relations

Polyarchic Regimes: Majoritarian Democracy

Readings: Lijphart, “The Westminster Model of Democracy” (library reserve)

Polyarchic Regimes: Consociational and Integrative Democracy

Readings: Lijphart, “Consociational Democracy” (library reserve)
 Sisk, Chapters Three and Four

Authoritarian Regimes

Readings: Lustick, “Stability in Deeply Divided Societies: Consociationalism versus Control” (library reserve)
 Rothchild, “Hegemonial Exchange: An Alternative Model for Managing Conflict in Middle Africa” (library reserve)

Ethnically-Based Preferential Policies

Readings: Weiner, “The Political Consequences of Preferential Policies: A Comparative Perspective” (library reserve)

Midterm Examination #1 Review: February 13th

Midterm Examination #1: February 15th

Section II The Causes of Ethnic Conflict

Domestic Causes: Economic and Social Factors

Readings: Brown (*Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*), pp. 3-25

Domestic Causes: Political Factors

Readings: Snyder and Ballentine (*Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*), pp. 61-96

Domestic Causes: Structural Factors – Failed States and Security Dilemmas

Readings: Taras and Ganguly, pp. 212-227
 Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict" (library reserve)
 Snyder and Jervis (*Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention*), pp. 15-37

International Causes: Diffusion and Escalation

Readings: Taras and Ganguly, Chapter Three
 Lake and Rothchild, "Spreading Fear" (library reserve)

Midterm Examination #2 Review: March 6th

Midterm Examination #2: March 8th

Section III Conflict Management Strategies

Limited Responses to Refugee Crises

Readings: Loescher and Dowty (*Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*), pp. 337-365
 Posen (*Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*), pp. 193-232

Self-Determination: Partition and Secession

Readings: Taras and Ganguly, Chapter Two
 Kaufmann (*Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*), pp. 444-483
 Kaufmann (*Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention*), pp. 221-260

Third-Party Mediation

Readings: None

Peace Agreement Implementation: U.N. and U.S. Participation

Readings: Taras and Ganguly, Chapter Four
 Walter (*Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention*), pp. 38-69

Peacekeeping Operations: From Short-Term to Long-Term Commitments

Readings: Rothchild and Stedman, "Peace Operations" pp. 17-35
 Hartzell, "Explaining the Stability of Negotiated Settlements to Intrastate Wars" pp. 3-22
 Stedman (*Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*), pp. 366-414

Last Examination Review: April 24th

Last Examination: April 26th