

**Ethnic Conflict**  
**POLS 312-500 Fall 2007**  
**David Rossbach**

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**I. Course Objective**

The course is designed to introduce you to theories about the sources of ethnic conflict and strategies that have been used to manage these conflicts. In the first part of the class we will examine sources of ethnic identity and how governments have attempted to reinforce or de-emphasize these identities. In the second portion, we will examine how these domestic structures have and have not worked in suppressing ethnic conflict. Finally, we will examine how the international community, or other third parties, has attempted to bring about the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

**II. Required Texts**

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

- The book is available at the University bookstore. The book may also be available at the online bookstores, such as <http://www.addall.com>, <http://www.amazon.com>, <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>, <http://www.half.com>, and <http://www.campusi.com>. If you choose to order your textbook via an online provider, please be mindful of the delivery time as several weeks may pass before you would receive the copy of the book.

**\*\*Other readings:**

I will also be assigning numerous book chapters and journal articles each week. These additional items are listed in the course schedule portion of this syllabus and full citations are given. The items are available on the e-reserves website: <http://ereserves.tamu.edu>.

**III. Grading Policy**

Exams: 60% (20% each)

Paper: 30%

Attendance/Participation: 10%

**IV. Examinations**

Three in-class exams will be given during the course of the semester. The format of the exams will most likely consist of a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short essay sections. Note that Exam 3 will be given during the university scheduled final exam period.

Make-up Examinations: A make-up exam will be given ONLY under the following circumstances:

1. You notify me or the department by the end of the next working day after the missed exam.
2. You are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor within one week of your return to substantiate the reason for the absence. I do not accept photocopies of medical excuses. Please bring the original.
3. The make-up exam will be given immediately after the class on the day you return to school unless you have a conflict with another class.

#### V. Research Paper

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to theories of the sources of ethnic conflict and their management. An important part of this goal is to help you develop analytical skills necessary to grasp these dynamics. **As such, you will be asked to write a research paper concerning an ongoing ethnic conflict situation in the world and how theories we have addressed in class could be employed in attempting to explain and resolve the conflict.**

The paper should briefly (no more than 2-3 pages) summarize the background for the conflict and the remainder of the paper should then analyze the conflict using theories covered in class and suggest a possible course of resolution. The paper should persuasively support and elaborate on the argument stated in your thesis section. Please keep in mind that this is a paper written for a political science not a history course. Therefore, you will need to *use* historical phenomena *to support* your arguments. Mere narration of events without showing any connection to your main thesis will earn you a C grade at best.

- **Topics must be approved by me. Period. Papers written on topics not approved by me will not be accepted.**
- The paper should be in a double-spaced format.
- It must be 10 to 12 pages long, not counting the front sheet and references.
- The paper should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font.
- The body of the text on a page must be framed by 1-inch margins.
- Pages must be numbered.
- Your paper must have a bibliography in standard APA format.
- While the Internet could be used as a source of information, you must employ at least seven academic sources, meaning academic books and articles. Readings assigned in the class could also be used, however they should not be the sole source of information.
- Whenever you use information from another source, in other words, when you paraphrase or quote directly, you must give a credit to the author by properly citing him/her. Not doing so constitutes an act of plagiarism. The format of citations will be discussed in class.

#### Deadlines

- **Topics must be approved by me. Period. Papers written on topics not approved by me will not be accepted.**
- The research project is due by **5:00 pm on Friday, November 16**. Please turn in your paper to me or ask a staff member at the department of Political Science for them to date and time them. Papers that are put into my mailbox without time and date on them will be considered as submitted when I pick them.

- Papers submitted late will lose 5 percentage points per day (including weekends).
- The only exception to this will be for university excused absences.

### Possible Paper Subjects

The following list provides some classic examples of ethnic conflict situations that are either still ongoing or have recently been resolved in some way. This is simply to provide some suggestions but is by no means exhaustive. I will also accept others not on this list.

- Georgia (Abkhazia and South Ossetia)
- Ivory Coast
- Nagorno-Karabakh (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)
- Chechnya
- Transdniester (Moldova)
- Kosovo (Serbia)
- Sri Lanka
- Darfur (Sudan)
- Quebec
- Basque (Spain)
- Iraq

### VI. ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Statement

“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 that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Services, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD).” (<http://scs.tamu.edu/overview/access.asp>) in Room B118 Cain Hall, or call 845-1637.

### VII. Plagiarism Statement

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the 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. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the Aggie Honor System Office website (<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>) or the latest version of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section “Scholastic Dishonesty.”

### VIII. Copyright Statement

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, quizzes, exams, in-class materials review sheets, and additional in-class materials. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

## IX. Course Schedule

**\*\*\*This may change based on progress in class. Any changes will be announced in class.**

Week 1: Introduction/ Sources of Ethnic Identity

Readings: T&G pp. 1-13, Mueller (Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict) pp. 97-125

Week 2: Majoritarian Democracy/Consociational and Integrative Democracy

Readings: Lijphart, Arend. 1999. "The Westminster Model of Democracy" in *Patterns of Democracy: Government Performance in Thirty-Six Countries.*; Lijphart, Arend. 1977. "Consociational Democracy" in *Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration.* (both on e-reserves)

Week 3: Authoritarian Regimes

Readings: Lustick, Ian. 1979. "Stability in Deeply Divided Societies: Consociationalism versus Control." *World Politics* 31: 325-344.; Rothchild, Donald. "Hegemonial Exchange: An Alternative Model for Managing Conflict in Middle Africa." (both on e-reserves)

Week 4: Ethnically-Based Preferential Policies

Readings: Weiner, Myron. "The Political Consequences of Preferential Policies: A Comparative Perspective."; Sowell, Thomas. "Affirmative Action: A Worldwide Disaster." (both on e-reserves)

Week 5: **Exam 1**

Week 6: Domestic Causes: Economic and Social Factors

Readings: Brown, Michael. "The Causes of Internal Conflict." (Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict); Ross, Michael L. "What Do We Know About Natural Resources and Civil War?" *Journal of Peace Research* 41: 337-356. (on e-reserves)

Week 7: Domestic Causes: Political Factors

Readings: Snyder, Jack and Karen Ballentine. "Nationalism and the Marketplace of Ideas." (Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict).

Week 8: Domestic Causes: Structural Factors – Failed States and Security Dilemmas

Readings: Posen, Barry. "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict."; Snyder, Jack and Robert Jervis. "Civil War and the Security Dilemma." in *Civil Wars, Insecurity and Intervention.* Barbara F. Walter and Jack Snyder (eds.) (both on e-reserves)

Week 9: International Causes: Diffusion and Escalation

Readings: Lake, David A. and Donald Rothchild. "Spreading Fear: The Genesis of Transnational Ethnic Conflict." In *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict.* Lake and Rothchild (eds). (on e-reserves)

Week 10: **Exam 2**

Week 11: Limited Responses to Refugee Crises

Readings: Dowty, Alan and Gil Loescher. "Refugee Flows as Grounds for International Action"; Posen, Barry R. "Military Responses to Refugee Disasters." (both in Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict)

Week 12: Self-Determination: Partition and Secession

Readings: Kaufmann, Chaim. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil War." (in Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict); Kaufmann, Chaim. "When All Else Fails: Evaluating Population Transfers and Partition as Solutions to Ethnic Conflict" in *Civil Wars, Insecurity and Intervention*. (on e-reserves).

Week 13: (Thanksgiving)

Readings: *TBD*

Week 14: Peace Agreement Implementation: U.N. and U.S. Participation

Readings: Walter, Barbara F. "Designing Transitions from Civil War." (in Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict)

Week 15: Peacekeeping Operations: From Short-Term to Long-Term Commitments

Readings: Walter, Barbara F. *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*. Pages 19 – 43 and 113-142. (on e-reserves)

**Exam 3 – Tuesday, December 11. 10:30am – 12:30 pm.**