

INTL 4280: Ethnicity, Conflict, and Cooperation

University of Georgia

Fall 2019, MWF 11:15-12:05

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Welcome!

This is a course about ethnic diversity and its importance for politics. We begin by asking what ethnicity is and why it should, in theory, be linked to political outcomes. We then cover three key areas in which ethnic diversity is theoretically important: the provision of (or failure to provide) public goods, political competition, and conflict.

How will you be graded?

Assignment	Proportion of grade
Midterm exam	30%
End of course exam	30%
Short paper	30%
Attendance	10%

I will administer two **exams**, one at midterm and the other at the end of the semester. The end-of-semester exam will focus on concepts covered in the second half of the course. Good performance on the exams requires engagement with the all of the course materials, including readings, lectures and class discussion. Details on the exams will be provided as they approach. I will offer an optional final exam, which you can use to replace your lowest exam grade. This optional, comprehensive final exam will be administered at the official time and location set by the univerisity. I repeat, the final is optional. If you choose to take the final, I will use the two highest of your three exam grades in computing your final grade. In other words, the final would count for 30% of your grade so long as you score higher than the lowest score you received on the two previous exams.

You will also have a **writing assignment**. Instructions for this short paper will be distributed later in the semester. Throughout the semester, I will take **attendance** 10 times. Your attendance on each of these occassions is worth one point toward the final grade.

Make-up and extension policy: It is your responsibility to attend all scheduled class meetings, including the times when exams are offered. No make up exams will be allowed. No extensions for assignments will be granted.

Ground rules

You are responsible for being self-motivated, self-directed, active learners. I expect you to comply with university policy and use common sense. You should complete all of the course assignments and participate fully in all of our activities. A complete list of the course policies is posted on my website.

Goals and teaching philosophy

When this course is finished, you should:

- Develop a robust conceptual understanding of ethnicity
- Deepen your understanding of core social science concepts by applying them to a range of cases
- Understand the main theoretical explanations for the impacts of ethnic diversity
- Have explored the main empirical approaches to studying the impacts of diversity on conflict and cooperation

As your professor, it is my responsibility to create an environment that fosters your learning. This includes keeping materials up to date on the course elc, and

otherwise providing a well-organized course. You are responsible for taking advantage of that environment. If any aspect of the course is impeding your learning, please communicate that to me in whatever way you feel most comfortable.¹

Course Schedule

Most readings will be available via UGA's electronic course reserves system (password: coordination).

August 14-30: What is ethnicity, and why does it matter for politics?

Required reading:

- "Conflict Is More Profitable Than Peace" by Nicholas Kristoff
- Chandra (2006)
- Fearon and Laitin (2000)

September 2-11: No class meetings

September 11-30: Ethnicity and public goods

Required reading:

- Habyarimana et al. (2009, Chapter 1)
- Habyarimana et al. (2007)
- Alesina, Baqir and Easterly (1999)
- Enos and Gidron (2016)

Review October 2

Midterm, October 4

¹A note about my name: Feel free to call me Micah or Professor Redman or Professor Gell-Redman.

October 2-25: Ethnicity and political representation

Required reading:

- Posner (2004)
 - Eifert, Miguel and Posner (2010)
 - Ferree (2006)
 - McClendon (2016)
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Oct 28-Nov 20: Ethnicity and conflict

Required reading:

- Fearon and Laitin (1996)
- Scacco and Warren (2018)
- Enos (2016)
- Chandra (2005)

Review November 22

End of semester exam, November 25

Short paper, Dec 4

Final exam, Fri, Dec 6 12:00-3:00pm

References

- Alesina, Alberto, Reza Baqir and William Easterly. 1999. "Public goods and ethnic divisions." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114(4):1243–1284.
- Chandra, Kanchan. 2005. "Ethnic parties and democratic stability." *Perspectives on Politics* 3(2):235–252.
- Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. "What is ethnic identity and does it matter?" *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 9:397–424.

- Eifert, Benn, Edward Miguel and Daniel N. Posner. 2010. "Political Competition and Ethnic Identification in Africa." *American Journal of Political Science* 54(2):494.
- Enos, Ryan D. 2016. "What the demolition of public housing teaches us about the impact of racial threat on political behavior." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(1):123–142.
- Enos, Ryan D and Noam Gidron. 2016. "Intergroup behavioral strategies as contextually determined: Experimental evidence from Israel." *The Journal of Politics* 78(3):851–867.
- Fearon, James D and David D Laitin. 1996. "Explaining interethnic cooperation." *American political science review* 90(4):715–735.
- Fearon, James D and David D Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the social construction of ethnic identity." *International organization* 54(4):845–877.
- Ferree, Karen E. 2006. "Explaining South Africa's racial census." *Journal of Politics* 68(4):803–815.
- Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Dan Posner and Jeremy Weinstein. 2007. "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision? An Experimental Approach." *American Political Science Review* 101(4):709–725.
- Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Dan Posner and Jeremy Weinstein. 2009. *Coethnicity: Diversity and the Dilemmas of Collective Action*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- McClendon, Gwyneth H. 2016. "Race and responsiveness: An experiment with South African politicians." *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 3(1):60–74.
- Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4):529–545.
- Scacco, Alexandra and Shana S Warren. 2018. "Can social contact reduce prejudice and discrimination? Evidence from a field experiment in Nigeria." *American Political Science Review* pp. 1–24.