INTL 4280: Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
University of Georgia – Fall 2019
MWF 12:20-1:10
Classroom: MLC 253

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

This course covers important topics of comparative politics and international relations. It will use an abundance of existing literature on the subject, as well as other resources, to introduce the students to these topics. At the end of the course, the students should be able to understand key concepts, such as nation and ethnicity, and to analyze how these concepts influence relations, and eventually lead to conflict, between and within groups.

The course will consist of two interconnected parts. In the first, more theoretical, part you will learn key concepts and main theories of nationalism and ethnic conflict. Firstly, we will discuss how different authors define the nation and explain nationalism. You will be introduced to some of the most important works and debates in the field and learn about the main approaches to the study of nationalism. We will then discuss how these concepts influence intergroup relations and reflect what nationalism means today and its future. Secondly, we will cover some of the most important theories on ethnicity and ethnic conflict and discuss how to analyze ethnic conflict. In the second, more substantive, part of the course, you will be introduced to different cases of ethnic conflict around the globe. We will then address how (or if) ethnic conflict can be solved and inimical ethnic groups reconciled. Finally, we will discuss how nationalism and ethnicity translate into party politics today.

Course Requirements:

Readings
You are expected to complete the readings listed on the syllabus prior to coming to class. Failure to do so will be evident in your lack of participation during class discussions.

There are 2 required texts:


All other readings and materials can be found on eLC unless otherwise noted.

Classroom Attendance and Activity
This class meets three times a week and attendance is mandatory. You can miss a maximum of three classes (no excuses or notes are necessary, although a heads-up will be appreciated). All further documented absences will lead to a lower class participation grade (10 points per missed class).

Course Evaluation:

Participation (15%)
This course will require a great deal of discussion and active listening. Simply showing up to class does not constitute participation. Your participation grade will be evaluated based on your ability to draw upon insights from the readings, the depth of the thoughtfulness of your questions/comments, and your activeness in class.

First Test (25%)
The first test will deal with the key concepts you have learned throughout the first five weeks of the course. It will consist of 10 short answer questions. In class on 9/16

Short Reflections (25%)
Each student will have to write 6 short reflections (min 500 words) on the readings for the weeks of her/his choice. The reflection should not simply summarize the article, it needs to analyze the readings (what did you like or didn’t like) and compare them (one is better, both are good, both are bad…why). You will need to include and properly cite at least two of the readings from the selected week in your reflection. You are required to upload your reflection on the course’s eLC page no later than Sunday (5 pm) of the selected week (later submissions will not be accepted).

Final Paper (35%)
The final paper (5000-7000 words) should consist of two interconnected parts. In the first part, you should reflect on the impact of nationalism and ethnicity on violent conflict onset. To do that, you should use the theoretical concepts which you have learned throughout the course to analyze single or multiple cases of ethnic conflict. While doing that, you should also think which of the competing theories (i.e. primordialism/modernism) does a better job in explaining the roots of the conflict that you are analyzing. Regarding the selection of your cases, you can rely on the syllabus and choose one or more cases we have discussed in class, or you can select any other case of ethnic conflict of your interest (it is highly recommended that you discuss your choice with me prior). In the second part of the paper, you should then propose the best possible solution to your case of conflict, using what have you learned throughout the course. In general, you should rely on existing data and literature and cite them properly. Due 12/11 (by 2 pm) Later submission will be penalized (1% of your overall grade for each day late).

Course Policies:

Technology
Laptops are not welcome in class, unless I instruct you to bring one. Should you need to use a laptop please provide proper documentation from UGA’s DRC.
All cell phones/Blackberries, etc. should be shut off or set to silent – NOT VIBRATE – before arriving to class. The use or interruption of these devices during regular class time will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

Communication and Email
I will keep you updated about the course and any changes to the syllabus through the e-mail or the course’s ELC page – PLEASE REGISTER FOR NOTIFICATIONS! You are required to frequently check both. When emailing me please use your UGA email account and include your course number in the subject line. In most cases I will respond to emails within 24 hours. Importantly, before you email me please check the syllabus and the news page of the ELC site to be sure that your question has not been previously addressed. A note on etiquette: please use appropriate salutations, including my name in the opening and your name in the closing.

Academic Dishonesty
As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: http://www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to Judicial Affairs, as required by university policy. The most common issue of academic dishonesty I have come across is plagiarism. To be clear, plagiarism is copying from any source material (direct or paraphrasing of ideas), published or unpublished (this includes wikipedia!), without giving proper credit. I will post a link to the Chicago Manual of Style citation format on ELC.

Students with Disabilities
UGA is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications to students with disabilities. Students in need of special accommodations need to request such services from the Disability Resource Center located at 114 Clark Howell Hall (for more information visit www.drc.uga.edu) and should make an appointment to see me with their appropriate paperwork from DRC within the first two weeks of classes.

Privacy and Intellectual Property
UGA’s code of conduct protects student privacy and intellectual property and thus prohibits recording and digital release of classroom lectures and conversations unless a student has an accommodation from the DRC. If this is your situation, please let me know and we will devise an accommodation that protects your right to privacy, that of your classmates, and everyone’s intellectual property.

This syllabus is subject to changes throughout the semester.

Class Schedule & Readings:

WEEK 1. INTRODUCTION TO NATIONALISM
Wed., 8/14 – Introduction
Read the syllabus

Fri., 8/16
ADS. Introduction and Chapter 1

WEEK 2. KEY CONCEPTS AND IDEOLOGY OF NATIONALISM

Mon., 8/19

“Definitions” (1–7)

Cambridge University Press. Introduction (1–13)

Wed., 8/21
Chapter 4

Fri., 8/23
ADS. Chapter 2

WEEK 3. EXPLAINING NATIONALISM

Mon., 8/26 Modernism
ADS. 49–53


Optional:
Pluto Press. Chapter 6 (Nairn’s response to criticisms)

Wed., 8/28 Primordialism and Perennialism
ADS. 53–60

Optional:

Fri., 8/30 Ethno-symbolism
ADS. 60–5


Optional:
Smith, A.D. (2002). “When is a Nation”. *Geopolitics* 7 (2), 5-32

**WEEK 4. NATIONALISM AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS**

Mon., 9/2 NO CLASS (LABOR DAY)

Wed., 9/4
ADS Chapter 4

Fri., 9/6

**WEEK 5. FUTURE OF NATIONALISM**

Mon., 9/9
ADS Chapter 6

Wed., 9/11


Fri., 9/13
Review for the test

**WEEK 6. ETHNICITY AND SEPARATISM**

Mon., 9/16
First test
Wed., 9/18

Fri., 9/20

**WEEK 7. THEORIES OF ETHNIC CONFLICT**

Mon., 9/23
Movie (in class): “Hotel Rwanda”

Wed., 9/25

Fri., 9/27
JW. 7–10; 15–21


**WEEK 8. ANALYZING ETHNIC CONFLICT**

Mon., 9/30
JW. 31–61


Movie (in class): “Earth” (1998)

Wed., 10/2
JW. 61–92


Fri., 10/4


**WEEK 9. CASE: NORTHERN IRELAND**
Mon., 10/7
Movie (in class): “Bloody Sunday”

Wed., 10/9
JW. Chapter 3

Fri., 10/11


WEEK 10. CASE: YUGOSLAVIA

Mon., 10/14
Movie (in class): “Turneja” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4Bt3xAMr7Y

Video (at home): “The Death of Yugoslavia”:
First Part: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDADy9b2IBM
Second Part: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcZvQxoTzdQ
Third Part: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6zTmgxW490
Fourth Part: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udgvKd-oVxs
Fifth Part: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URZA6r5LLtk
Sixth Part: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLrIaZSGXyA

Wed., 10/16
JW. Chapter 4

Fri., 10/18
Video (at home): “Stolen Kosovo” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1dtOAGD0pk


WEEK 11. CASE: HORN OF AFRICA

Mon., 10/28
JW. Chapter 5

Wed., 10/30

Videos (at home):
“Why Do Ethiopia And Eritrea Hate Each Other?” (2015)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKRaM_2bcCE

“Ethiopia and Eritrea trade blame over border clashes” (2016)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLw6hSEyfy8

“Leaks from Eritrea, Africa's North Korea”  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBacsi5eX0A

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9Qq11_KIIg

“Inside Story - What is triggering Ethiopia's unrest?” (2016)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iunH3dwA1UQ

“Inside Story - Is Ethiopia on a path to inclusive democracy? (2018)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEMPmrxyzQg

Videos (in class):
“Ending the Longest War in Africa” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPgEez1wrBQ

“Eritrea-Ethiopia Ties: Eritreans living in Ethiopia welcome peace deal”  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXfHfrjLZLc

“What will peace with Ethiopia mean for Eritrea?”  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0GW_D8Y6Eo

Fri., 11/1 NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)

**WEEK 12. CASE: ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**

Mon., 10/21  
JW. Chapter 7

Wed., 10/23  
Video (at home): “Forever Pure” and “Born in Gaza” (both on Netflix)

Fri., 10/25  
TBA

**WEEK 13. CASE: SRI LANKA**

Mon., 11/4  
JW. Chapter 6

Wed., 11/6
Videos (at home): “Sri Lanka’s Killing Fields”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3yPzyM0KMU&bpctr=1563534590
“Tamil Tiger Guerrillas Divide Sri Lanka” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SulKwMmmj5s

Video (in class): “Sri Lanka: War Crimes” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNx3dcF_leg

Fri., 11/8


Video (in class): Sri Lanka: Reconciling and Rebuilding
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeFhTh1PxQE

WEEK 14. RESPONSES AND RECONCILIATION

Mon., 11/11


Wed., 11/13


Fri., 11/15


WEEK 15. NATIONALISM AND ETHNICITY IN PARTY POLITICS

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Mon., 11/18

Wed., 11/20


Fri., 11/22


**WEEK 16. NO CLASSES**

Mon., 11/25 CLASS CANCELLED

Wed., 11/27 NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

Fri., 11/29 NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

**WEEK 17. CONCLUSIONS**

Mon., 12/2
JW. Chapter 8

Wed., 12/4
Final Essay discussion (optional)

**Final due Wed., 12/11**