

ISTD 4961-01: Capstone Ethnic Politics

Spring 2023

Monday 07:15 pm - 10:00 pm (In-person)

Dr. Post Basnet

Office: McGannon #124

Office Hours: Friday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (or by appointment)

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Class: Xavier Hall #122

Course Description

Welcome to ISTD 4961-01! This is a capstone course designed for senior level students at the university. As such, it is designed to have students demonstrate the various academic skills they have developed over the course of their university life. The course seeks to further encourage students to look at some of the pressing issues of the world, hone their analytical and communications skills, and develop their ability to conduct research. To that end, we will also focus on conducting empirical research in social sciences, and particularly in political science. Depending on the individual interest and background, students can choose either quantitative or qualitative research methods. Because of the nature of this course, a good amount of reading is also required.

The substantive focus of this course is the examination of ethnic politics. Despite the massive sociopolitical changes and the emergence of diverse crosscutting cleavages in the modern world, ethnicity continues to dominate local and national politics in many multiethnic societies and affects the international political system. The flow of migration, changing economic relations, and a host of other factors threaten the stability of even the consolidated democracies. Ethnic politics may also alter the intergroup (power) relations and profoundly affect our wellbeing in societies as well as prospects for peace and harmony in the world.

The course provides a broad overview of major theoretical approaches to the study of ethnic politics and examines the existing literature in the fields of international relations and comparative politics. However, the field of ethnic politics also encompasses theories from other social sciences such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, and economics. Insights from these disciplines will broaden our understanding and enrich the field of ethnic politics. Although we will also discuss the role of ethnicity in US politics, the primary focus will be on examining ethnic politics globally and from a comparative perspective.

The course takes up four important questions: What is ethnicity and why does it matter?

Learning Objectives

We will take a comparative approach with cases from around the world drawn on the major social science theories. Students from all majors should be able to succeed in this course on condition that they put in sufficient effort.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Evaluate the major theories of ethnic identity –its sources, its evolution, and its power on people.
- Apply a variety of scientific methods to answer important empirical questions about ethnic conflict and cooperation.
- Assess the role of history, culture, collective memories, scarce resources etc. on the politicization of ethnicity and identify factors that make it problematic.
- Evaluate different strategies to manage (potential) ethnic conflict.
- Assess the potential impact of ethnic politics on public policy and the state capacity to deliver public goods.
- Assess the impact of immigration on national politics and think critically about the ways to maintain peace in multicultural societies.

Course Requirements

Participation Students are expected to finish the course readings before the class period for which they are assigned and participate actively in class discussions. Your attendance and participation are vital for the success of this course and will constitute 15% of your final grade.

Short papers There will be four short papers based on the weekly readings. Students are free to choose the weeks they want to write their papers. The four papers will constitute 20% of the final grade.

Mid-term exam: There will be a midterm exam that constitutes 20% of the final grade. It will be an open book exam and you can take it from any place you want. But you will have to finish the exam in three hours once you open it.

Presentations Each student will choose readings from the course and present them in the classroom twice during the semester. We will discuss this on the first day of the class. The presentations will constitute 10% of your final grade.

Research Project Students will write a research paper on any ethnic identity issue of their choice. The assigned readings and class discussions could be a source for the research topic. Each student is expected to meet the instructor by the third week of the semester and finalize the research question. Students will submit their research question, annotated bibliography and literature review separately before completing the paper. We will discuss the research process in

the class. At the end of the semester, students will present their papers in the class. The research paper and the presentation will constitute 35% of the final grade.

Attendance and classroom participation 15%

Research 35%

- Research question and annotated bibliography 5%
- Literature review 5%
- Final presentation 5%
- Final paper 20%

Four writing assignments 20%

Two classroom presentations 10%

Mid-term exam 20%

Your final grades will be assigned that correspond to the following numeric scale:

A	93-100	B+	88-92	C+	77-79	D	67-70
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	below 60
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

Citation Format

For the papers in this course, students will follow the American Political Science Association (APSA) citation style guidelines.

A. How to cite authors in the text:

Use author's last name and date of the publication. Don't cite authors directly unless it is necessary. Summarize what these authors say and cite them. For the paper

Kalyvas (2006) demonstrates that civil war violence has much less to do with collective emotions, ideologies, and cultures than currently believed. Instead of being an effective counterinsurgency strategy, state repression may solve the collective action problem for the rebels and fuel a nascent insurgency (Mason and K! (cent insurgra

Ethnic Power Relations (EPR) Dataset Family

- Barth, "Ethnic Groups and Boundaries." (Reader)
- Van Evera, S. 2001. "Primordialism lives!" APSACP: Newsletter of the organized section in comparative politics of the American Political Science Association, 12(1), 20-22.

Research Process

- Powner, Leanne. 2015. "Chapter 1: From Research Topic to Research Question." In Empirical Research and Writing. CQ Press.

Multimedia:

"Whose Is this Song – PREVIEW." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGCURBHF2Ss>

Suggested Reading:

- Chandra, K. 2006. "What is ethnic identity, and does it matter?". Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci. 9, 397-424.

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-Kellstedt, Paul and Guy Whittle. 2018. "Chapter 2: The Art of Theory Building." In The fundamentals of political science research. Cambridge University Press

Suggested Readings:

- Cederman, Lars Erik, Nils B. Weidmann, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2011. "Horizontal inequalities and ethnonationalist civil war: A global comparison." *American political science review* 105(3), 478-495.
- Sambanis, N. 2001. "Do ethnic and nonethnic civil wars have the same causes? A theoretical and empirical inquiry (Part 1)." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45(3), 259-282
- Suggested multimedia: Colonialism in 10 Minutes: The Scramble For Africa
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw12KGSj53k>

5. February 17: Ethnic Conflict: Bargaining Approaches

Required Readings:

- Lake, David A., and Donald Rothchild. 1996. "Containing fear: The origins and management of ethnic conflict." *International security* 21(2), 41

-Posner, D 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.

-Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 1996. "Explaining interethnic cooperation." *American political science review* 90(4), 715-735.

Suggested multimedia: Scottish independence: could Britain break up?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBHziXUDV6A>

7. March 6: Exam#1

8. March 13: Spring Break

PART III: Ethnic Conflict Management

9. March 20: Consociationalism and its Critique

Required Readings:

-Lijphart, A. 1969. "Consociational democracy." *World politics* 21(2), 207-225.

-Brass, PR. 1991. "Ethnic conflict in multiethnic societies: the consociational solution and its critics." *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Theory and Comparison* 3(3), 333-348.

-Horowitz, DL. 2006. "The many uses of federalism." *Drake L. Rev.* 55, 953.

-Mengistab, Kidane. 2009. "Identity Politics, Democratisation and State Building in Ethiopia's Federal Arrangement" [Identity Politics, Democratisation and State Building in Ethiopia's Federal Arrangement- ACCORD](#)

Suggested Readings:

-Schneekener, U. 2002. "Making power-sharing work: Lessons from successes and failures in ethnic conflict regulation." *Journal of Peace Research* 39(2), 203-228.

-Hale, HE. 2004. "Divided we stand: Institutional sources of ethnofederal state survival and collapse." *World politics* 56(2), 165-193.

Suggested multimedia: Why Ethiopia is in a civil war

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1IYd5vJ6og>

10. March 27: Partition and Third-Party Intervention

Required Readings:

-Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars." *International Security* 20 (4): 136-75.

-Bercovitch, Jacob and Karl Derouen, Jr. 2005. "Managing Ethnic Civil Wars: Assessing the Determinants of Successful Mediation," *Civil Wars* 7, 1 (Spring): 98-116

-Cunningham, David E. 2010. "Blocking resolution: How external states can prolong civil wars." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(2): 115-127

-Power, Samantha. 2001. "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen." *The Atlantic Monthly* 288(2): 84-116.

Multimedia: The creation of modern India and Pakistan, explained
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_FSUcZfcx0

Suggested Reading:

Suggested movie - Hotel Rwanda (2005) | Official Trailer | MGM Studios

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x8UzELvKIY>

-Sambanis, Nicholas and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. 2009. "What's in a Line? Is Partition a Solution to Civil War?" *International Security*

-Chapman, T., and PG Roeder. 2007. "Partition as a solution to wars of nationalism: The importance of institutions." *American Political Science Review* 101(4), 677-691.

PART IV: Ethnic Voting, Social Policy, and Multiculturalism

11. April 3: Ethnic Voting, Parties, and Democratization

Required Readings:

-Chandra, Kanchan. 2005. "Ethnic parties and democratic stability." *Perspectives on politics*, 3(2), 235-252.

-Ishiyama, John. 2011. "Explaining ethnic bloc voting in Africa." *Democratization* 19:761-788.

-Wilkinson, S. 2006. *Votes and violence: Electoral competition and ethnic riots in India* Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 2 only)

-Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond." *World Politics* 53.3

Multimedia:

"Babri Masjid dispute: Religion or politics?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j00iXZJHA>

Suggested Readings:

-Houle, Christian. 2018. "Does ethnic voting harm democratization?" *Democratization* 25, no.: 824-842.

-Birnie, JK. 2006. *Ethnicity and electoral politics* Cambridge University Press. (pp 18 only).

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