Course Description

Ethnicity and nationalism are complex, multidimensional phenomena to which social scientists are increasingly devoting their attention. Scholars from various disciplines, including sociology, political science, history, economics, and anthropology all contribute to our understanding of ethnic and national identification. Contrary to the predictions of many social scientists in the 1950s and 1960s, ethnic and national identities have not succumbed to the alleged universalizing forces of modernization and globalization. On the contrary, economic and political development often seems to have reinforced and strengthened them. Events since the end of the Cold War demonstrate all too clearly the power and passion behind group solidarity based on common language, religion, race, historical memories, values, territory, customs, symbols, myths and other cultural and physical attributes. Ethnic cleansing by Arabs against Blacks in Sudan, violence between Shiites and Sunnis in Iraq, and attacks by Russian nationalists against minorities and foreigners in Russia testify to the continued centrality of ethnic and national sentiment in the modern age. On a less violent level, ethnic groups in almost every multiethnic country continue to compete with one another over issues of economic equity, political decentralization, power-sharing, language and educational policies, and cultural rights. Most of the world’s states are multiethnic in composition, and face the great challenge of forging their various peoples into cohesive, unified wholes.

This course seeks to develop an understanding of the causes, consequences, and management of nationalism and ethnic/cultural conflict in our increasingly interdependent world. The course will seek to balance theoretical analysis of ethnicity and nationalism with empirical investigation of concrete cases. Additionally, special attention will be paid to the moral and ethical dilemmas in the sphere of ethnic and national relations. Finally, an effort has been made to expose the student to primary sources with the help of the internet.

The online version of this course is hosted on Desire2Learn at SIUOnline. You can ask me questions and submit your papers through this program.

If you are on campus, you can take the two exams at Testing Services. Note that you must register ahead of time for exams taken at Testing Services:
Alternatively, if you are living more than 35 miles from campus, you can arrange to have a proctor administer the exams. A proctor must be a person of responsibility in a learning institution. Consult this webpage at the Office of Distance Education for details about arranging a proctor, which must be done by the second week of the semester: http://testingservices.siu.edu/distanceeducationonlineclasses/findingaproctor.html

**Student Learning Objectives**

This course has several primary goals. Students should:

1. acquire basic empirical knowledge of the similarities and differences in ethnic/cultural relations and conflict within and between states.
2. become familiar with the basic theoretical approaches to the causes and management of ethnic/cultural conflict.
3. develop their ability to integrate different fields of study in the analysis of a complex social phenomenon.
4. improve their critical thinking and writing skills.

**Readings**


**Course Evaluation**

At the end of the semester I will make available an online student course evaluation form. It will help me to learn your assessment of the course and any suggestions you have for improvement. While it is not mandatory, I encourage you to take the time to fill it out!

**Course Requirements and Grades**

Proctored Midterm Exam—40%
Proctored Final Exam—40%
One Paper (3 double-spaced pages) from Internet Learning Module I—20%
The exams will be based on both the lectures and the textbook. Each exam is divided into two parts: Part I tests your knowledge of the lectures, while Part II tests your knowledge of the textbook. Part I is worth 65% of each exam, while Part II is worth 35%.

For each exam, there is a study guide available on Desire2Learn. The study guides cover both parts of the exams. For Part I (the lecture portion), the study guides present a list of short-answer questions that you should be prepared to answer in 4-5 full sentences. On the exam several of these questions from the study guide will appear. For Part II (the textbook portion), the study guides also present a list of the short-answer questions that you should be prepared to answer in 4-5 full sentences. As with the Part I, a selection of these questions from Part II of the study guide appears on the exam. There are thus no surprises on either the midterm or final: if you study the study guides you should do well on the exams.

There are two internet learning modules (ILMs) for the course:

ILM 1: Muslims in the Netherlands—Paper
ILM 2: Ethnic Conflict in Darfur, Sudan—No Paper (Extra credit available on final exam based on this ILM)

These modules require you to consult multimedia sources (videos, slide shows, podcasts, newspaper articles, interviews, etc.) from several internet sites. When you write the paper for ILM 1, be sure that you answer the question asked in the module assignment, as opposed to simply describing various aspects of the conflict in question. In other words, the paper should be highly focused and not meander to issues or points unrelated to the answer to the question I ask!

**Important Course Policies**

Read through the following policies very carefully.

**Plagiarism Warning**

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale’s Student Conduct Code (Section II, Article A) explicitly states that plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty in violation of the Code. According to university policy, students caught plagiarizing on an assignment may be punished by such measures as failing the assignment, failing the course, and suspension from the university. The Department of Political Science considers plagiarism a very serious offense. It is the student’s responsibility not to plagiarize on an assignment, and ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism will not be considered a valid excuse for this behavior. You should be forewarned that if I catch a student plagiarizing in this class, I will assign him/her a grade of F for the course, and ask the university to suspend the student from the university for one academic year.
Grading
All exam and paper grades will be recorded on Desire2Learn. Please note that if you do not take an exam or submit a paper, you receive a score of “0” for that item.

Missed Exams

Students who cannot take an exam on the scheduled date must inform me ahead of time and provide a convincing (to me) reason for their inability to sit for the exam. If a student misses an exam without making prior arrangements to re-schedule it, he/she will not be allowed to make up the exam.

Late Papers

The penalty for a paper submitted past the deadline is 3 points (out of 100) off per day.

Schedule and Content of Classes

I. Building Blocks: Ethnic Groups, Cultures, States, and Nations

What are Ethnic Groups?

Cultural Relativism: Are All Cultures Equal?

Relationships Between Ethnic Groups and States

What are Nations and Nation-Building?

Readings for Part I:
Taras and Ganguly, Chapter 1. Ethnic Conflict on the World Stage

II. The Origin and Nature of Nationalism

Main Tenets of Nationalist Doctrine

Are Nations Moral Communities?

Internet Learning Module 1: Muslims in Netherlands—Paper Due Tuesday, February 16 at 6 p.m. Submit to the Dropbox on the course website.

Readings for Part II:
Taras and Ganguly, Chapter 2. Ethnic Conflict and International Norms

III. The Sources and Nature of Ethnic Conflict
Modernization, Economics, and Ethnic Conflict—Traditional Views

Modernization, Economics, and Ethnic Conflict—New Views

Psychological Approaches to Ethnic Conflict

*Readings for Part III:*
*Taras and Ganguly, Chapter 3. Ethnic Conflict and International Security*

**IV. Case Studies in Ethnic/Cultural Relations**

Rwanda

**Midterm Exam**— *Tuesday, March 8 or Wednesday, March 9*—will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the textbook, and all the lectures on the topics above (these lecture topics are underlined). See study guide.

West vs. Islam

Nationalism in the Former Soviet Union

Ethnic Violence in Africa

Immigration

*Readings for Part IV:*
*Taras and Ganguly, Chapter 5. Nationalism and the Collapse of Empire: The Russian-Chechen Conflict*

*Taras and Ganguly, Chapter 8. Weak States and Ethnic Conflict: Secessionism and State Collapse in Africa*

**V. Managing Ethnic Conflict**

Norms and Ethics of Secessionism

Assimilation

Federalism
Power-Sharing

*Internet Learning Module 2: Ethnic Conflict in Darfur, Sudan—Try to finish by Tuesday, April 12. No Paper Due but extra credit available on final exam based on this ILM.*

Multiculturalism and Ethnic Minority Rights

Positive Discrimination

Foreign Intervention in Ethnic Conflicts

*Readings for Part V:*
*Taras and Ganguly, Chapter 4. Resolving Ethnic Conflicts Through International Intervention*

*Taras and Ganguly, Chapter 9. Western Military Intervention and Ethnoreligious Conflicts: Iraq, Afghanistan, and Former Yugoslavia*

**FINAL EXAM – Monday, May 9 or Tuesday, May 10** – will cover chapters 4, 8, 9 of the textbook, and all of the lectures on the topics since the midterm (these lecture topics are underlined). See study guide.