POSC 241 Ethnic Conflict

Preliminary Syllabus - Spring 2002

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Office: Willis 404
Office Hours:
2:30 - 4:00 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays ;10:00 - 11:30 AM on Tuesdays
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Course Description & Objectives:

The causes, consequences and resolution of ethnic conflicts are the focus of this course. Wherever one looks in the world there seems to be an ethnic conflict underway. The problem has serious implications for the future of the international system since fewer than twenty of the more than 180 countries in existence today are "ethnically homogenous." It is inevitable, then, that interstate relations will be affected by the problems experienced in a world where there is not a neat convergence between state borders and cultural boundaries, just as it is inevitable that the interstate system will affect how states cope with the demands of their multicultural realities. The course will address three critical questions about ethnic conflict: (i) What are the contending explanations of ethnic conflict in our ever-changing world?; (ii) What are the implications of ethnic conflict for interstate relations?; and (iii) What are the mechanisms available for managing ethnic conflict?

Course Requirements, Policies, & Grading:

There will be three primary requirements for this course, all of them essays. All written submissions must be: typed (single-sided), double-spaced, in 12-pt. font, with 1" page margins, and with within-text citations (author year, page) and footnotes or endnotes (choose one) if necessary. They must generally follow the standards established in commonly accepted academic writing style manuals. Always feel free to come to me seeking help with any aspect of the course.

For the three essays (8-10 pages each) you will summarize, analyze and critique the arguments presented in required readings 3, 4 and 5. I will discuss my expectations regarding these writing assignments in greater detail in class. In general, though, to receive any grade above a B-, a student must produce a thoughtful, comprehensive, and well-written essay that borrows ideas and arguments from the assigned readings as well as from "outside" source material to thoroughly and critically analyze the subject.

The assigned course readings will be regularly discussed in class. Active student participation in all class discussions is expected, and will be the basis upon which the "class participation" grade is decided. A good class attendance record is also expected throughout the term.

Grades will be based on the following distribution scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay from reading 3</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>94 - 100 % A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay from reading 4</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>90 - 93 % A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay from reading 5</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>87 - 89 % B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>83 - 86 % B</td>
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</tbody>
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All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Any act of academic dishonesty or misconduct will be referred to the Office of the Dean. For further information, see Carleton College's
Academic Honesty in the Writing of Essays and Other Papers and the section on "academic honesty" in Academic Regulations and Procedures, 2001-02. Both are available in Laird 140.

Special needs: Students requiring access to learning tools or special schedules approved by Student Support Services should contact me at the beginning of the course.

Reading Assignments:

You are expected to keep up with the reading assignments as we go through the term, which means that you are supposed to read each assignment before the corresponding class period. The class lectures and discussions are meant to build upon the assigned reading material.

The following five required books are available in the bookstore:


Additional books with reading assignments (on closed reserve in the library):


M 4/1 Introductory remarks.

Section I: Ethnicity, Politics, and Conflict: An Introduction

W 4/3 Definitions, concepts, and approaches to analysis.
  - L&R. Chapter 1.
  - TDS. Chapters 1 & 2.

F 4/5 Definitions, concepts, and approaches to analysis (cont.).

M 4/8 No class.

Section II: Ethnonationalism and Conflict: Contending Theories
W 4/10 Introduction and overview.
- BCLM. Brown, Van Evera articles.

F 4/12 System-level explanations.
- C&H. Chapters 2 & 3.

M 4/15 State-level explanations.
- MEB. Chapter 3.
- DLH. Chapters 4 & 5.

W 4/17 State-level explanations (cont.).
- BCLM. Mueller, Lake and Rothchild articles.

F 4/19 Small group/individual-level explanations.
- H&S. Section II, pp. 32-69.

M 4/22 Small group/individual-level explanations (cont.).
- H&S. Section II, pp. 69-104.

W 4/24 Small group/individual-level explanations (cont.).
- C&H. Chapter 6.
- BCLM. Snyder and Ballentine article.

F 4/26 No class.

Section III: The Implications of Ethnic Conflict for Interstate Relations

M 4/29 Introduction and overview.
- BCLM. Brown and Oudraat article.
- L&R. Chapter 15.
- DLH. Chapter 6.

W 5/1 Ethnic conflict as a transnational problem.
- L&R. Chapters 2, 3, & 4.

F 5/3 Ethnic conflict as a transnational problem (cont.).

Smith book essay due in my office by 5 PM.

M 5/6 Midterm break.

Section IV: Managing Ethnic Conflict

W 5/8 Power sharing and international mediation.
- TDS. Chapters 3, 4, & 5.
F 5/10 Power sharing and international mediation (cont.).
- C&H. Chapter 30.
- TDS. Chapter 6.

M 5/13 International intervention.
- C&H. Chapters 12 & 22.

W 5/15 International intervention (cont.).
- BCLM. Posen, Byman and Waxman articles.

F 5/17 International intervention (cont.).
- BCLM. Howe, Paris articles.

M 5/20 Political challenges to managing ethnic conflict.
- BCLM. Dowty and Loescher, Stedman articles.

W 5/22 Political challenges to managing ethnic conflict (cont.).
- BCLM. Walter, Kaufmann articles.

Kaufman book essay due in my office by 5 PM.

Section V: Case Studies

F 5/24 Canada.

M 5/27 Russia.


F 5/31 Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

M 6/3 The US response to ethnonationalism and ethnic conflict.

W 6/5 Course wrap-up and evaluation.

Gourevitch book essay due in my office by 5 PM.