

INTL 4280: Nationalism and Ethnic War
Fall 2009

T/TH 2:00-3:15; Journalism 404

Instructor: Dr. Stacey Mitchell (gs12smg@uga.edu)

Office Hours: **T/TH 12:30-1:30**

Office: Candler 318

Welcome to INTL 4280—Nationalism and Ethnic War. The purpose of this course is to provide you with a clear understanding of the consequences as well as the causes of ethnic conflict as explained by various theories—including primordial, constructivist and instrumentalist theories. We will apply these theoretical models to specific cases of ethnic conflict and assess the impact that third party actors and the international community have had in terms of resolving these conflicts. As the preceding sentence indicates, in this course we also examine the topic of conflict intervention. We will focus on international norms for and against intervention, the various motives for intervention, different types of intervention and whether or not intervention resolves conflicts or makes them worse. In the last part of the semester we will turn our attention to the role of institutions as a cause and a solution to the problems of ethnic conflict on the African continent and elsewhere in the developing world.

Grading and Course Requirements

Grading in this course will be based upon these components:

- Class participation: 20%
- Midterm: 20%
- Research paper: 30%
- Final exam: 30%

Grades will be scaled as follows:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 59% and below

Exams

The midterm and final will consist of 25 multiple choice questions. The final exam **is not comprehensive.**

Research Paper

You will be required to write a 10 to 12 page paper on an ethnic conflict that we have not covered in this class. You will assess your case study using primordial, instrumentalist, constructivist and institutional theories arguing as to which provides the most convincing explanation. **The paper is due on DECEMBER 3RD.**

Required Readings

The following textbook is required for this course and is available at the UGA bookstore:

- Taras, Raymond C. and Rajat Ganguly. 2009. *Understanding Ethnic Conflict*, 4th edition update, New York: Longman.

All other reading assignments are available through the UGA Library's electronic reserve system or through its "e-journals" database. To access the reserves go to <http://www.libs.uga.edu/>, hit "course reserves." Under "instructor" scroll down to "Mitchell," under "course" scroll to "INTL 4280." A password is required. The password for this course is "sgm4280."

For the on-line e-journal articles, go to <http://www.libs.uga.edu/>, hit "e-journals" then type in the name of the journal and proceed from there.

Ground Rules

First and most importantly, this course will require a great deal of reading and analysis, and significant participation in class. If you are not prepared to work hard, this may not be the course for you. Your remaining in this course will be understood to be an acceptance of the following ground rules:

- Please **turn off** all cell phones before you come to class.
- If you miss a class, and therefore miss an attendance grade, your absence will only be excused with official documentation: I accept doctor's notes, copies of court subpoenas, jury subpoenas and other official court documentation, as well as funeral notices and notices for school-sponsored events. Any documentation you present to me must be presented in a **timely** manner (within a day or so after your return) and **must include** the date or dates you missed class—otherwise your absence will not be excused. **I do not accept** as a valid excuse the following:
 - Weddings, vacations, birthdays, other family events including births (unless of course it is you who is giving birth) and missing class because you have to work on something for another class or you have to take an entrance exam for grad school, law school, med school or bartending school.
 - **If you miss an exam without a valid excuse no makeup test will be given. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - More than 3 unexcused absences will be taken by me as a sign that a student has a lack of interest in the course and will count negatively against that student's final average.
- Unless I tell you otherwise, please have all readings completed on the dates for which they are assigned.
- In terms of participation, you will be graded on the **quality, not just the quantity** of your contributions. Remember, your participation in class discussion indicates to me whether or not you have read the assigned material. Every student in this class is expected to contribute to class discussion.
- In terms of your final grade, **I DO NOT NEGOTIATE**. I will explain your grade to you. I will not change your final grade.

Assigned Readings

Block One: (August 18-25) INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC CONFLICT.

- Aug 18: Introduction
- Aug 20-25: Taras and Ganguly, chapters 1-2

Block Two: (August 27-September 10) THEORIES OF ETHNIC IDENTITY.

—Primordialism and its critics

- Aug 27: Thomspon, Richard. 1989. "Primordial Sentiments versus Civic Ties." (reserves)
- Sep 1: Harvey, Frank P. 2000. "Primordialism, Evolutionary Theory." (reserves)

—Instrumentalism and its critics

- Sep 3: Bates, Richard. 1983. "Modernization, Ethnic Competition." (reserves)
- Sep 8: Smith, Anthony. 1996. "Culture, Community and Territory." (reserves)

—Constructivism

- Sep 10: Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity," *International Organization* Vol. 54(4). (reserves)

Block Three: (September 15-October 1) EXAMPLES OF ETHNIC CONFLICT: THE CASES OF RUSSIA, SRI LANKA AND AFRICA.

- Sep 15-17: Taras and Ganguly, chapter 5
- Sep 22: Taras and Ganguly, chapter 6
- Sep 24: Taras and Ganguly, chapter 7
- Sep 29-Oct 1: Taras and Ganguly, chapter 8

REVIEW FOR MIDTERM: October 1, 6

MIDTERM: October 8, 2009

Block Four: (October 13-27) INSTITUTIONS AS THE CAUSE OF ETHNIC CONFLICT: THE HYBRID DEMOCRACIES ARGUMENT AND ITS CRITICS.

—Hybrid democracies in a nutshell

- Oct 13: Mansfield, Edward D. and Jack Snyder. 1995. "Democratization and the Danger of War." (reserves)

—The hybrid democracies argument with a twist

- Oct 15: Mousseau, Demet Yalcin. 2001. "Democratizing with Ethnic Divisions," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 38, No. 5. (e-journals)
- Oct 20: Ellingsen, Tanja. 2000. "Colorful Community or Ethnic Witches' Brew?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 44, No. 2. (e-journals)

—Critique of the hybrid democracies argument: what about civil society and political culture?

- Oct 22: Chabal, Patrick and Jean-Pascal Daloz. 1999. "The Illusions of Civil Society." (reserves)
- Oct 27: Clark, John F. 1997. "The Challenges of Political Reform in Sub-Saharan Africa." (reserves)

Block Five: (October 29-November 5) INSTITUTIONS AS THE SOLUTION TO ETHNIC CONFLICT.

—Consociationalism and its critics

- Oct 29-Nov 3: Schneckener, Ulrich. 2002. "Making Power-Sharing Work," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 39, No. 2. (e-journals)
- Nov 5: Wilkinson, Steven. 2000. "India, Consociational Theory, and Ethnic Violence," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 40, No. 5. (e-journals)

Block Six: (November 10-December 1) ETHNIC CONFLICT AS A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. THE NEED FOR INTERVENTION

- Nov 10-12: Taras and Ganguly, chapter 3
- Nov 17: Taras and Ganguly, chapter 4
- Nov 19-Dec 1: Taras and Ganguly, chapter 9-10

- Nov 23-27: *Thanksgiving holiday*

RESEARCH PAPER DUE: DECEMBER 3, 2009

REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 3, 2009

NOTE: there is no class scheduled for December 8th. Classes are operating that day on a Friday schedule.

READING DAY: DECEMBER 9TH

FINAL EXAM: Fri., Dec. 11, 2009, 3:30 - 6:30 pm, Jour 404.

**This is a tentative working syllabus. Any information in this syllabus is subject to change.
Students are responsible for these changes.**