

Previous Syllabus (NOTE: this syllabus is for a previous semester of this course. Hence the dates are not applicable, and the readings may be updated. It is designed to provide you with a picture of how the course may proceed).

This course will cover the fast-growing social science literature on the cross-national modeling of ethnic identity and conflict. This work encompasses sociology, political science, and economics, as well as drawing from other social science disciplines. It comprises general theories, both qualitative and quantitative, as well as historical, ethnographic, and statistical empirical studies, including experimental work both in the lab and the field. In investigating the causes of conflict, theorists have inevitably also looked at the effect of ethnic identity on cooperation. We seek to identify the major theoretical schools of thought in this literature, strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches, and opportunities for integration.

We will attempt to address a number of unresolved questions in this literature. These include: To what extent is ethnic identity a causal factor or simply a label that is assigned to contemporary political violence? If ethnicity is a causal factor, is it compatible with predictive theories, and if so how can it be incorporated? Can we account for the origins and nature of ethnic identity, and if so, how? How can structure, identity, and agency be integrated into unified theories of conflict and cooperation? What are the roles of qualitative case studies, retrospective statistical analysis, and experiments in informing theoretical development? Finally, how can empirical findings and the theories they inform be used to develop concrete policy recommendations for reducing conflict?

Topics and Readings:

Week 1 (1/21): Ethnic Conflict: The State of the Literature

Assigned Texts:

- Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).
- Henry E. Hale, *The Foundations of Ethnic Politics: Separatism of States and Nations in Eurasia and the World*, (Cambridge University Press, 2008).
- Sun-Ki Chai, *Choosing an Identity: A General Model of Preference and Belief Formation* (University of Michigan Press, 2001).

Week 2 (1/21): Ethnic Conflict: The State of the Literature

- Rogers Brubaker and David D. Laitin, "Ethnic And Nationalist Violence" *Annual Review of Sociology* 24:1 (1998), 423-52.
- James Fearon, "Ethnic Mobilization and Ethnic Violence" in Barry R. Weingast and Donald Wittman (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy* Oxford: Oxford University Press (2007).
- Francesco Caselli and Wilbur J. Coleman "On the Theory of Ethnic Conflict" National Bureau of Economic Research , Working Paper (2006).

Week 3 (1/28) Ethnic vs. "Non-Ethnic" Models of Collective Conflict

- Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel, "Civil War", *Journal of Economic Literature* (June 2008).
- Stathis Kalyvas, "New and Old Civil Wars", *World Politics* 54:1 (Oct 2001), 99-118.

Optional Readings

- Stathis Kalyvas, "Civil Wars" in Boix & Stokes (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2007), 416-434.
- Nicholas Sambanis, "Do Ethnic and Non-Ethnic Wars Have the Same Causes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45:3 (2001), 259-282.

Week 4 (2/4): Collective Conflict: The Question of Rationality

- Christopher Cramer, "Homo Economicus Goes to War: Methodological Individualism, Rational Choice and the Political Economy of War" *World Development* 30:11 (2002), 1845-1864.
- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Parts I, II, V.

Week 5 (2/11) Incorporating Identity into Analysis of Conflict and Cooperation

- Michael Hechter and Satoshi Kanazawa, "Sociological Rational Choice Theory" *Annual Review of Sociology* 23 (1997), 191-214.
- Ernst Fehr and Herbert Gintis, "Human Motivation and Social Cooperation: Experimental and Analytical Foundations" *Annual Review of Sociology* 33 (2007), 43-64.

Optional Reading

- Sun-Ki Chai, "Rational Choice and Culture: Clashing Perspectives or Complementary Modes of Analysis?" in Richard Ellis and Michael Thompson (eds.), *Culture Matters* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997), 45-56.

Week 6 (2/18) Micro-Models of Identity Formation

- George Akerlof and Rachel Kranton, "Economics and Identity", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115:3 (August 2000).
- Sun-Ki Chai, *Choosing an Identity*, Chapters 1-3.

Optional Reading:

- John Bryan Davis, "Social identity Strategies in Recent Economics", *Journal of Economic Methodology* 13:3 (September 2006), 371-390.

Week 7 (2/25) Incorporating Identity into Predictive Ethnicity Theory

- Kanchan Chandra, "What Is Ethnic Identity And Does It Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9:1 (2006), 397-424.
- James Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation" *American Political Science Review* 90:4 (1996), 715-735.

Optional Reading

- Michael Hechter, "Nationalism and Rationality" *Journal of World Systems Research* 2:6 (Fall 2000).

Week 8 (3/4) The Formation of Ethnic Boundaries

- Henry Hale, *The Foundations of Ethnic Politics*, Introduction and Part I.
- Sun-Ki Chai, *Choosing an Identity*, Chapter 5.

Optional Reading:

- Rogers Brubaker et al, "Ethnicity as Cognition", *Theory and Society* 33:1 (February 2004), 31-64.

Week 9 (3/11) The Formation of Ethnic Boundaries (2)

- Kanchan Chandra and David Laitin, "A Framework for Thinking about Identity Change", Working Paper, Stanford University, 2006.
- Andreas Wimmer, "The Making and Unmaking of Ethnic Boundaries: A Multilevel Process Theory", *American Journal of Sociology* 113:4 (January 2008), 970-1022.

Week 10 (3/18) Case Studies and Qualitative Comparison (Europe and Africa)

- Daniel N. Posner, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi" *American Political Science Review* 98:4 (2004), 529-545.
- Henry Hale, *The Foundations of Ethnic Politics*, Part II.

Optional Reading:

- Edward Miguel, "Tribe or Nation? Nation-Building and Public Goods in Kenya versus Tanzania" *World Politics* 56:3 (2004), 327-362

Week 11 (4/1) Case Studies and Qualitative Comparison (Asia)

- Steven I. Wilkinson, "Democratic Consolidation and Failure: Lessons from Bangladesh and Pakistan", *Democratization* 7:3 (Fall 2000), 203-226.
- Jacques Bertrand, "Ethnic Conflicts in Indonesia: National Models, Critical Junctures, and the Timing of Violence" *Journal of East Asian Studies* 8 (2008), 425-449.

Optional Reading:

- Kanchan Chandra, "The Transformation of Ethnic Politics in India: The Decline of Congress and the Rise of the Bahujan Samaj Party in Hoshiarpur" *Journal of Asian Studies* 59:1 (2000), 26-61.

Week 12 (4/8) Quantitative Cross-National Studies

- James D. Fearon and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War" *American Political Science Review*, 97:1 (2003), 75-90.
- Andreas Wimmer, Lars-Erik Cederman and Brian Min, "Ethnic politics and Armed conflict. A configurational analysis of a new global dataset", *American Sociological Review* 74:2 (forthcoming 2009).

Optional Reading:

- Alberto Alesina and Robert Baqir, and William Easterly, "Public Goods and Ethnic Divisions" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114:4 (1999), 1243-1284.

Week 13 (4/15) Experimental Studies (Cultural Differences)

- Joseph Henrich et al., "'Economic Man' in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Behavioral Experiments in 15 Small-Scale Societies" *Behavioral and Brain DSciences* 28:6 (December 2005), 795-855.
- Benedikt Herrmann, et al., "Anti-Social Punishment Across Societies" *Science* 319:1362 (March 7, 2008).

Week 14 (4/22) Experimental Studies (Diversity and Discrimination)

- James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner And Jeremy M. Weinstein, "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?", *American Political Science Review* 101:4 (November 2007), 709-725.
- Swee-Hoon Chuah, Robert Hoffmann, Martin Jones, and Geoffrey Williams, "Do Cultures clash? Evidence from cross-national ultimatum game experiments", *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 64:1 (September 2007), 35-48.

Week 15 (4/29)

- Paper Topic Presentations

Week 16 (5/6) Last Day of Instruction

- Paper topic Presentations

Main Assignments

50% of grade: For each class from the second week on, all class members are required take on turn in a short set of critical notes on each of the readings. These should include a list of of at least 3 study questions or comments on the literature, which are designed to trigger further discussion. You will be expected to raise these (and optionally other) questions during class oral discussions.

50% of grade: You will be expected to turn in a final research paper in academic journal article format, and graded according to social science criteria for such articles. You may pick the topic of your choice relating to the course, and work with the professor to locate appropriate outside references. The last two meetings of the course will be devoted to oral presentations of your papers in their current stage.