



Ethnic Conflict in Foreign Countries

Syllabus for POL 451 (Spring 2007)

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Office Location:	McClung Tower 1013	Class Time:	8:00 – 8:50am MWF
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Office Hours:	1:30 – 3:00pm MWF		
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Course Description

This course, Ethnic Conflict in Foreign Countries, examines political and violent conflict among ethnic and national groups and the challenges these conflicts pose for democratic and democratizing states. Such groups include the Ulster Catholics, the Sri Lankan Tamils, and the Spanish Vascos. What do all three of these have in common? All three are defined as ethnic groups; none of the three hold the reins of power in their respective states; and all three have resorted to terrorism in their respective democratic states.

This course will provide you with the tools to further examine the causes of ethnic conflict throughout the world. By the end of this course, you will have a deep understanding of several theories of ethnic violence, you will know the events leading up to the outbreak of ethnic violence in several cases, and you will gain an in-depth knowledge of one ethnic conflict in the world.

Primary Texts

The *required* book for this course:

Taras, Raymond C., and Rajat Ganguly. 2006. *Understanding Ethnic Conflict: The International Dimension*, 3rd edn. New York: Pearson-Longman.

The textbook is divided into two parts. The first part lays out the extant theories of ethnic conflict. The second part applies these theories to several case studies. The course is likewise divided into two parts. The first part discusses the theories and case studies in the book. The second part has you investigate and report on a case study of your own, different from one in the text.

This investigation will lead to two products. The first product will be a presentation of your findings to the class. This presentation should cover the history of the conflict, the positions held by each of the sides (both ideological and territorial), prognosis for an end to the conflict, and your own assessment of appropriate steps to take to resolve the issue.

The second product will be a paper that will likewise be shared with the entire class. While the presentation will necessarily cover only the important points and will briefly provide the history of the conflict, the paper will give a more in-depth history and analysis. As such, it will be very important for the rest of the class to read your product.

The *recommended* books for this course:

American Political Science Association. 2001. *Style Manual for Political Science*. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association.

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*, 4th edn. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon– Longman.

University of Chicago. 2003. *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edn. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

The APSA style manual is completely optional. It appears as though the APSA is readying itself to publish an updated edition. As such, the bookstores have limited copies of the second edition. In lieu of having you purchase the entire style manual, I have distilled the necessary portions into a document called *APSA References*, accessible from the course website. This document provides examples of reference lists so that you format them correctly.

The other two recommended books are important if you plan to learn to write properly.

Other readings will be assigned as necessary and available by link on the class web site, in the eReserve section of the library's website, or in the reserve section of the library. If you are unable to access any of the readings, please alert me as soon as possible. In general, notifying me the day before the reading is due is too late.

Class Policies and Expectations

Taking Notes

Note taking is an essential part of any college course, especially any course that is introductory in nature. Not only does the act of taking notes reinforce the material in question (it is not merely read and heard, but physically reproduced), it creates a record essential to preparation for quizzes and exams. If you are forced by circumstance to miss class, you will be expected to catch up on all missed notes. Make friends in the class; they will be there for you if you miss a day.

Attendance

Attendance will be checked daily at the beginning of class. Tardiness counts as absence. Since participation is such a large component of your grade, it is very important that you show up for class on time and participate fully. Your participation indicates that you have read the assignment, applied it, and have grappled with some of the more obvious themes. I strongly urge you to come to class with deep questions on the readings, especially when you are to lead the discussion for the day.

Conduct

All students are at all times expected to be attentive, to take part in class discussions, and above all else to be courteous and sensitive towards their fellow students. Impropriety will not be tolerated. Further, emotionally charged subject material may be dealt with in this course (ethical, religious, political, etc.); such material requires maturity and openness to views which may conflict with one's own.

Writing

All assignments need to follow the style sheet for this class. All writings reflect you and your ability (thus, plagiarism will be strongly punished). Make sure that *you* are satisfied with your finished product. Your grade depends upon how well you write.

The University of Tennessee does have a Writing Center located in the Humanities building. If you are unsure about your abilities, please make extensive use of it.

Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, contact the Office of Disability Services in 2227 Dunford Hall. Their phone number is (865) 974-6087. Also, as soon as is reasonable, inform me of their response.

Athletics

Notify me as soon as possible if there is a conflict between an athletic performance and a class requirement. If notice is not made in a timely manner, no adjustments will be made. As an athletic calendar already exists, such notice should be forthcoming within the first week of classes. In any case, last-minute notification will not be accepted. It is your responsibility. Club athletics do not count as excused absences.

Cheating, Plagiarism, & Academic Dishonesty

Any instance of cheating, plagiarism, and/or academic dishonesty will *at least* result in an automatic failure of the course (if not expulsion from the university) and will be dealt with according to those rules outlined in Hilltopics (pages 11, 12, 14, and 41 in the 2006/07 version). If you have yet to read the relevant sections on plagiarism, I strongly urge you to read them now. In part, the relevant section on page 11 reads:

Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University.

Making-up the Exams

If you miss an exam, you must speak to me on the day of return to arrange for a time and place to take the make-up test. If you fail to do this, you will receive a zero for the exam. The make-up exam may be different than the original.

Preparation and Participation

This is an upper-level course. You are expected to have not only done the homework and all of the readings, but you are to have thought about the readings and implications.

Evaluation

Your work grade is calculated as:

Paper	200	40%
Paper Presentation	50	10%
Discussion Leading	50	10%
Exams (2 × 100)	200	40%

Your attendance grade is the percent of the days you show up to class on time.

However, your **semester grade**—the grade I turn in to the registrar at the end of the semester—will be the *lower* of your attendance grade and your work grade.

Thus, if you get 100% on all assignments and exams, but only show up (on time) to class 85% of the time, your percent for the course will be 85%—a B. And, if you get a 70% on all assignments and exams, yet have a perfect attendance record, you will get a 70% in the course—a C.

Grades

Grade reports will be emailed to your school email account at intervals throughout the semester. Your final letter grade will be based on the following percentage scale:

90 – 100%	A		
80 – 88%	B	88 – 90%	B+
70 – 78%	C	78 – 80%	C+
60 – 70%	D		

You are responsible for keeping track of your grades and ensuring that what I have emailed is correct.

Brief Course Outline

Discussion Topics:

Ethnic Conflict on the World Stage	January 17 – January 19
International Norms Concerning Ethnic Conflict	January 22 – January 26
Effects of Ethnic Conflict on International Security	January 29 – February 2
International Intervention to End Ethnic Conflict.....	February 5 – February 9
Case Study I: Chechnya	February 12 – February 16
Case Study II: The Québécois (FLQ)	February 19 – February 23
Case Study III: Sri Lanka (LTTE)	February 26 – March 2
Issue Study I: Failed States	March 5 – March 19
Issue Study II: Military Interventions	March 21 – March 28
Issue Study III: US Foreign Policy Implications	March 30 – April 2
Examination (Midterm).....	April 4
Presentations (All papers due April 9)	April 9 – April 27
Examination (Final).....	May 8 (8:00 am)

End Matter

Changes and Supremacy

Should it become necessary to change the syllabus, an announcement in class will be made that the new syllabus is posted on the class web site. In the event of a discrepancy between this printed syllabus and the website's syllabus, the website will take precedence.

Class Website

All classroom documents can be found at the classroom website. This website will also contain supplemental notes and documents. Anything posted to the website will be assumed read by every member of the class. Its address is: <http://web.utk.edu/~oforsber/>.