Course Description

Most nations today may be considered as multi-cultural, that is: they are comprised of at least two distinct societies based on different cultures. About 5000 ethnic groups are found today in about 200 nations. It is evident that in spite of the high hopes since the collapse of the Communist Block the number of ethnic conflicts increased dramatically. At present about 300 conflicts are registered. Each and every one of them is unique and yet there are some similarities which unite most of them. This course maps the main conflicts, studies the roots and claims of the protagonists, and based on the recognition of the similarities attempts to define a model of ethnic conflicts and some features of possible solutions.

Course Structure: Two 75-minute classes per week

Prerequisites: None

Required Textbooks


Grading

Component                  Percentage
Class participation         10%
Mid-term Essay exam         20%
Home essay I                20%
Home essay II               20%
Final Examination           30%
May 3, 2010; 1030-1230

Paper
- To be submitted electronically by e-mail to: abligh@nd.edu as attachment.
- The subject line should be clearly marked: last name, first name, course subject, assignment # (Doe, John, Ethnic Conflicts, assignment #01).
- Must be double spaced and typed up on Word Processing software. Maximum length: 10-12 pages (including notes and bibliography).
- **The papers are due on February 16, 2010 and April 13, 2010 respectively until midnight.**
- Failure to submit the paper on time will automatically result in a deduction of half a letter grade for each week or part of it the paper is late.
- The student should maintain a complete copy of the paper, including all appendixes for the student’s records.

Class discussions

Most topics will be discussed during more than one class. 3-4 classes during the semester will be devoted to contemporary ethnic issues.
Each class reading material is divided between required (in bold fonts) reading and optional reading.

SECTION ONE: DEFINITIONS

Week 1: What is Ethnicity?


Thomas Hylland Eriksen, “Ethnic identity, national identity and intergroup conflict: The significance of personal experiences”, In Ashmore, Jussim, Wilder (eds.): *Social*


Weeks 2-3: Ethnicity, Nationalism and violence.


Fox, Jonathan, “Trends in Low Intensity Ethnic Conflict in Democracies States in the Post-Cold War Era: A Large N Study.", Review of International Affairs 2, no. 3; (Spring 2003), 54-70.


Week 4: Building nationalism; Ethnicity as fundamental element in Europe Nationalism in 19th century; Primordialism.


Week 5: Constructivism and Instrumentalism.

Definitions, Linkage with "relative deprivation" (Subjective value, cognitive-psychological influence); is the conflict really unavoidable?; Utilization of historic traditions and current conditions by political actors.


**Week 6: Ethnicity and Religion.**
The influence of religion on ethnic conflicts (Middle East, Ireland, Shi’ite versus Sunni in Iraq, Sunni versus Kurds, Shi’ite versus Kurds, Central Asia).


Or:
A R M Imtiyaz; Ben Stavis, “Ethno-political conflict in Sri Lanka”, *Journal of Third World Studies*; Fall 2008; 25, 2; 135-152.


**SECTION TWO: ETHNIC CONFLICTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SYSTEMS.**

**Week 7: Ethnicity in the International System.**
Historical background – colonialism, contacts between indigenous and "the white man" (Australia, USA); Differences in superpowers approach towards ethnicity in Africa, Asia and South America; Colonial super powers contribution to current ethnic conflicts.


**Week 8: Post Soviet lessons: Building communism, Communist approach towards ethnic minorities.**


**Week 9: The “Old” Soviet Union and later: The reawakening of ethnic feelings; Impact on other regions (especially the Balkans).**

**New states in central Asia:** issues of identity (Muslims, ex-Russians, democracy, all of it together?); ethnicity and the Central Asian republics (Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).


**SECTION THREE: TYPOLOGY OF CONFLICTS.**

**Week 10: Typology of conflicts: Separation and independence.**

Trumbore, Peter F., "Victims or Aggressors? Ethno-Political Rebellion and Use of Force in Militarized Interstate Disputes."
*International Studies Quarterly* 47, no. 2 (June 2003): 183-201.


**Week 11: Typology of conflicts: Power, autonomy and impact.**


**Week 12: Typology of conflicts: Survival.**
The Ukrainian case: theory and practice: National Russian or ethnic Ukrainian?


**SECTION FOUR: SOLUTIONS (?) AND CONCLUSIONS.**

**Week 13: Possible approaches to political settlements: Consociational democracy and other approaches.**


**Week 14: Concluding discussion - Failing Solutions and possible approaches to political settlements – the interventionist dimension.**


**Weeks 15-16: TBA.**