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Summer 2015

DIPL 6001 Politics of Cultural and Ethnic Pluralism

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Politics of Cultural and Ethnic Pluralism (DIPL 6001)
School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University (Summer 2015)

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I. Course Description

This course surveys the politics of cultural and ethnic pluralism/diversity as manifested in terms of the plurality of political, economic, cultural, and socio-demographic variables shaping the contemporary world, and their impact on the international system and the practice of international relations. The course focuses on the salient issues that have taken center stage in the modern world, and deals with general issues related to the rise of politicized ethnicity and other cultural cleavages around the world. It also explores different theories and perspectives on identity formation, activation, and mobilization. Moreover, factors that contributed to the recent revival of ethnic, religious, and linguistic attachments, including globalization, are investigated.

The lectures for this course are organized around three schools of thought -- primordialism, instrumentalism, and constructivism -- that purport to explain cultural solidarities. We will try to apply these three perspectives in our study of the politics of cultural pluralism in the contemporary world, with emphasis on why and how ethnic cleavages have become salient after the end of the Cold War. Towards the end of the semester, we will explore possible formulas for accommodation of cultural pluralism in multi-ethnic societies.

To this end, this course surveys national and ethnic identities around the globe and their impact on the human condition. The instructor hopes that, by the time the course topics are covered, each student will have developed a heightened interest in the study of cultural pluralism and an appreciation of the extent to which ethnicity has become salient in the late 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. As students majoring in Diplomacy and International relations, you are expected to think in terms of theories and related policy issues that will potentially affect the domestic and international politics of culturally plural societies.

The course will conclude with student presentation of research findings. Each student will write and present a research paper, subject to the instructor's approval, on any topic related to cultural pluralism either in a specific country (that is, at the sub-national or national levels) or group of countries (that is, at the group level), or at the level of the international system.

II. Required Texts

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London and New York: Verso.

In addition, the instructor will make available copies of book chapters and articles from scholarly journals for student use.

III. Course Competencies

- ability to identify and explain cultural pluralism wherever it exists
- demonstrated knowledge of ethnic and other markers and their effects on the political, social, and economic environment of various nation-states
- demonstrated knowledge of the dynamics under which cultural groups are activated and mobilized
- ability to recognize and explain contemporary issues in culturally plural societies
- ability to argue and explain the extent to which ethnicity and nationalism continue to play crucial role in shaping the present international system
- ability to propose sensible formulas for accommodation of cultural groups in multi-ethnic societies

IV. Course Activities

- lectures, student presentations, and class discussion
- examination
- research paper
- student research paper presentation
- discussion of ethnic conflict/cooperation from current cases around the globe (*The New York* and other Internet sources)

V. Course Requirements and Grading

Class sessions, to be conducted in the form of seminars, will combine lectures, presentations, and discussions of assigned readings. Students will receive grades based on the following:

1. There will be one in-class final examination carrying a maximum total of 25 points occurring on the date indicated in the course outline below.
2. A well-developed research paper carrying a maximum total of 60 points to be handed on the date indicated in the course outline below. The research paper will make an in depth analysis of the topic (selected by the student and approved by the instructor). The length of the paper, of course, depends on the issue raised. However, it is preferred that the paper be between 18 and 22 typed and double-spaced pages

(including the bibliography and/or footnotes), with 1 inch margins on all sides, and font size of 12.

3. Class presentation of research paper carrying a maximum total of 15 points.

Final course grade will be awarded according to the following scale:

94 – 100 = A

89 – 93 = A-

86 – 88 = B+

82 – 85 = B

79 – 81 = B-

76 – 78 = C+

70 - 75 = C

< 70 = F

Remarks

1. Final examination questions will be based on class lectures and reading assignments. It is imperative that students take class notes and do all the readings and assignments.
2. It is very important the research paper be an **individual** endeavor. If not, it is a case of pure plagiarism, and plagiarism is an academic offence of the highest order, which may result suspension or dismissal! The University has a clear policy on academic dishonesty and this includes, “All forms of dishonesty, whether by act or omission, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and knowingly furnishing false information.” Therefore, “Work submitted in courses must be the product of the efforts of the student presenting the work, and contributions of others to the finished work must be acknowledged appropriately.” Please read the full text of the University and School policies. To guard against possible plagiarism, you are required to submit a hard copy as well as an electronic copy of the paper on the due date.
3. It is very important that the paper is completed on **time**. The instructor will have the option to deduct significant points and/or reject project not handed on time. Moreover, remember that each student is required to discuss the topic of his/her research and get approval from the instructor well in advance of the due-date.
4. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and will be held responsible for materials covered in class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. A high rate of attendance and participation will be assets in determining borderline grades.
5. Absence from an examination will result in a **zero** point for that examination unless the student is able to provide a convincing evidence for his/her absence. In the latter case, a make-up examination will be administered at a time suitable to the student and the instructor. This make-up examination will most likely be different from the first.

IV. Course Schedule and Readings

May 19

General introduction - requirements, grading, readings, etc.

Introduction to the politics of cultural pluralism

Why study cultural pluralism? -- academic and policy-related imperatives

-- cultural pluralism as a field of study

Nature, scope, and theoretical framework for the study of the politics of cultural pluralism

Readings: Readings: C. Young, "The Dialectics of Cultural Pluralism: Concept and Reality," 3-35.

Additional readings:

D. Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*, 3-54.

P. Brass, *Ethnic Groups and the State*, 1-56.

May 20

Globalization and ethnic revival

Readings: M. Ignatieff, 1-16

S. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs*, February 1993, 22-49.

Additional readings: R. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," *Atlantic Monthly*, February 1994, 44-76.

May 21

Primordialism

Readings:

T. Vanhanen, "Domestic Ethnic Conflict and Ethnic Nepotism: A Comparative Analysis," *Journal of Peace Research*, 1999, 55-73.

Additional readings: P. Shaw and Y. Wong, *Genetic Seeds of Warfare*, 1-89.

May 22

Instrumentalism

Readings:

A. Bariagaber, "The Politics of Cultural Pluralism in Ethiopia and Eritrea: Trajectories of Ethnicity and Constitutional Experiments," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, November 1998, 2057 – 1072.

Additional readings: E.Haas, "Nationalism: An Instrumental Social Construction," *Millennium*, 1993, 505 – 545.
S. Olazak and J. Nagel. *Competitive Ethnic Relations*, 93 –112.

May 26

Constructivism

Readings:

Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (Ch. 1-2)

Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (Ch. 3-4)

Additional readings: J. Sorenson, "Learning to be Oromo: Nationalist Discourse in the Diaspora," *Social Identities*, 1996, 439-467.

May 27

Constructivism (Cont.)

Readings:

B. Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (Ch. 5-7).

Smith, "The Nation: Invented, Imagined, Reconstructed?" *Millennium*, 1991, 353 –365.

Additional readings: J.D. Eller and R. Coughlan, "The Poverty of Primordialism: The Demystification of Ethnic Attachments," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, April 1993, 183 –202.

Shulman, "The Cultural Foundations of Ukrainian National Identity," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 22, 1999, 1011-1036.

May 28

Democracy, the multicultural state, and accommodation of diversity

Readings: Kellas, pp. 177-188.

A. Lijphart, "The Puzzle of Indian Democracy: A Consociational Interpretation," *American Political Science Review*, June 1996,

C. Young, "Ethnic Diversity and Public Policy: An Overview."

Additional Readings: Rabushka and K. Shepsle, *Politics in Plural Societies: A Theory of Democratic Instability*

Y. Ghai, "Decentralization and Ethnicity."

Smith, Z. "The Impact of Political Liberalisation and

Democratisation on Ethnic Conflict in Africa: An Empirical Test of Common Assumptions," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, Vol. 38, 2000, 21-39

May 29 - Each student must write and hand-in a one-page description of his/her topic, including the significance, the gap or void the study intends to fill, and the research question and the proposed hypothesis/proposition. Research topic must be approved by this date.

June 1 – No formal class. The instructor will be in the classroom to assist students in their preparation for the final examination or on their research. If no student shows up by 5:00 pm, the instructor reserves the right to leave.

June 2 – Final in-class Examination

June 3 – writing the research paper -- The instructor will be in the classroom to assist students in their preparation for the final examination or on their research. If no student shows up by 5:00 pm, the instructor reserves the right to leave.

June 4 -- Student research PowerPoint presentation -- in alphabetical order starting with undergraduates.

June 5 – No formal class -- The instructor will be in the classroom to assist students in their preparation for the final examination or on their research. If no student shows up by 5:00 pm, the instructor reserves the right to leave.

June 6 -- Research Paper due-date. The paper must be submitted in hard copy in my office by 5:00 pm. An electronic copy must also be sent the same day.

Suggested Readings

- Armstrong, John *Nations before Nationalism* (1982)
- Bartlett, C. J. *The Global Conflict: The International Rivalry of the Great Powers, 1880-1990* (1994)
- Bendix, Reinhard *Nation-Building and Citizenship: Studies of Changing Social Order* (1964)
- Brass, Paul *Ethnicity and Nationalism* (1991)
- Breuilly, John *Nationalism and the State* (1983)
- Brubaker, Rogers *Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe* (1996)
- Diamond, Larry and Mark Plattner (eds.) *Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Democracy* (1994)
- Emerson, Rupert *From Empire to Nation; The Rise of Self-assertion of Asian and African Peoples* (1960)
- Fukuyama, Francis *The End of History and the Last Man* (1993)
- Geertz, Clifford *The Interpretation of Cultures* (1973)
- Glazer, Nathan and Daniel Moynihan *Beyond the Melting Pot* (1970)
- Horowitz, Donald *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (1985)
- Junke, Peter *Ethnic and Religious Conflicts: Europe and Asia* (1994)
- Markakis John "The Nationalist Revolution in Eritrea" (*The Journal of Modern African Studies*, vol. 25, no. 4, 1987)
- Moynihan Daniel. *Pandemonium; Ethnicity in International Politics* (1993)
- Nash, Manning. *The Cauldron of Ethnicity in the Modern world* (1993)
- Smith, Anthony "The Nation: Invented, Imagined, Reconstructed?" (*Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 20, no. 3, 1991)
- _____ "Ethnic Nationalism and the Plight of Minorities" (*Journal of Refugee Studies*, vol. 7, no. 2/3, 1994)
- Sorenson, John. "Learning to be Oromo: Nationalist discourse in the Diaspora" (*Social Identities*, vol. 2, no.3, 1996)
- Yetman, Norman and C. Hoy Steele (eds.) *Majority and Minority: The Dynamics of Racial and Ethnic Relations* (1973)

