Professor: Dr. Laurie P. Salitan  
Time: Tuesday 4-5:50pm  
Location: Room 435, 19 West 4th St.

Office Hours: By appointment  
Email: laurie.salitan@nyu.edu

Course Description:

This seminar builds a framework for understanding and analyzing ethnic conflict. The assigned readings will provide a knowledge base that will help you develop the skills to think critically about ethnic conflict. Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will discuss foundational work on nations, nationalism, and ethnic groups and examine theories of ethnic group conflict. We will consider the role of history, culture, inequality, religion, fear and insecurity in ethnic conflicts. The relevance of geography, environmental issues and resource competition will be discussed. Additionally, we will examine specific thematic areas, including: ethnic violence, globalization, migration, citizenship and multiculturalism.

Course Requirements:

1. This seminar requires substantial weekly reading and places significant emphasis on preparation, class participation and discussion. Attendance and active participation are essential components of this course.

2. Oral presentations: Each week one or two students will take responsibility for synthesizing the readings by highlighting the key issues, concepts and debates. Presentations should be no more than 5-10 minutes and should be designed to initiate focused and critical discussion of the readings. The presentations must be accompanied by a 2-3-page analysis of the readings that identifies the major substantive issues and poses questions for class discussion. Both the oral and the written components of this assignment must highlight the key analytical issues discussed in the readings. The written portion of this assignment must be distributed to all members of the seminar via email attachment by noon (12pm) each Monday preceding our Tuesday seminar.

3. Week 14: Presentation and discussion of research paper.

The research topic is a case study of an ethnic conflict. Your assignment is to identify a case for which you can design a study that examines an ethnic conflict. You must frame your study by clearly identifying the question you are asking, explaining why your
question is important, the hypothesis you will advance, alternative hypotheses you will provide and discuss, and the evidence you will examine to test your argument.

This paper must clearly reflect an ability to think critically and analytically. This is a formal research paper and must employ standard citation and bibliographic formats. The papers should be approximately 15-20 pages in length. All papers are due in class as hard copies AND by email attachments on December 11, 2018.

Below are some websites you can consult for an overview of current conflicts—NOTE that not all conflicts referenced are ethnic conflicts. This is an important distinction for you to keep in mind:


Foreign Policy-10 Conflicts to Watch in 2018: https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/01/02/10-conflicts-to-watch-in-2018/

“Which Conflicts are Causing Migration from Africa?” InfoMigrants 2017 updates: http://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/3428/which-conflicts-are-causing-migration-from-africa (This 2017 update provides helpful background information on conflicts generating migration.)

If you need to review basic principles of research design, see:

Gary King, R. Keohane, S. Verba, Designing Social Inquiry. Browse topics, including pp. 28-33 on main themes; 35-36 on generalization; 43-46 on case studies; 99-114 on constructing theory; pp. 128-139 on bias in selecting evidence.

Henry Brady and David Collier, Rethinking Social Inquiry. Qualitative and mixed-methods critique of and amendment to the volume by King, Keohane and Verba.

Reading Materials: All books are on reserve in Bobst Library. Journal articles may be accessed electronically through Bobst Library. The link to the full library reserve list is https://bit.ly/2ASpoDt. Books marked with an asterisk (*) are available for purchase at the NYU Bookstore, should you wish to buy them. You are not required to buy any books.

Week One (September 4): Introduction-Conceptual and Definitional Issues

Connor, Walker, “A Nation is a Nation, is a State, is an Ethnic Group is a …,” Ethnic and Racial Studies, vol. 1 (October 1978), pp. 377-400.
Week Two (September 11): Part One--Nations, Ethnic Groups and Nationalism: Origins, Spread, Modernity


Week Three (September 18): Part Two--Nations, Ethnic Groups and Nationalism: Origins, Spread, Modernity


Week Four (September 25): Nationalism and Ethnicity as Conceptual Frameworks


Week Five (October 2): Identity Shaping: History, Context and Choice


***NO Tuesday Classes at NYU on OCTOBER 9—Monday schedule is followed.

Week Six (October 16): Politics of Belonging


Week Seven (October 23): Inequality, Insecurity, and Environmental Contexts for Violent Conflict


**Week Eight (October 30): Globalization and Culturally Motivated Violence**


**Week Nine (November 6): Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism**


**Week Ten (November 13): Religion**


**Week Eleven (November 20): Theory and Analysis of Ethnic Group Conflict**


**Week Twelve (November 27): Drivers of Conflict: Top Down or Bottom Up?**


**Week Thirteen (December 4): Institutions and Territory: Case Studies of Cleavages and Conflicts**


**Week Fourteen (December 11): Ethnic Conflict Case Studies**

**Presentation of papers**

All papers are due as hard copies in class today as well as by email attachment. Students will present and discuss their research.