THE POLITICS OF BELONGING: NATIONAL IDENTITY AND ETHNIC CONFLICT
New York University
Graduate School of Arts and Science
Department of Politics
POL-GA.3501.001
Fall 2019

Professor: Dr. Laurie P. Salitan
Time: Tuesday 2-4pm
Location: Room 212, 19 West 4th St.

Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description:

This seminar builds a framework for understanding and analyzing the politics of national identity. The assigned readings will provide a knowledge base that will help you develop the skills to think critically about nations, states and the politics of belonging. 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 ethnic conflict in the contexts of history, culture, inequality, religion, fear and insecurity. 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 all students will synthesize the weekly readings in a written analysis of no more than 800 words. Students must highlight the key issues, concepts and debates, with emphasis on the important analytical issues discussed in the readings. Please include questions for class discussion. The weekly write-up must be distributed to all members of the seminar via email attachment by noon (12pm) each Monday preceding our seminar. One student each week will be the designated discussion leader responsible for initiating focused and critical discussion of the readings.

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

The research topic is a case study of a national or ethnic conflict. Your assignment is to identify a case for which you can design a study that examines a national or 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 footnote citation and bibliographic formats (Chicago style preferred). The papers should be approximately 4000-5000 words (15-20 pages double spaced) in length. All papers are due in class as hard copies AND by email attachment on December 10, 2019.

Grades:
50% Weekly assignment and class participation.
50% Final paper and presentation.

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

King Gary; Keohane, Robert; Verba, Sydney, *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.

Brady, Henry and Collier, David, *Rethinking Social Inquiry*, 2nd ed. Qualitative and mixed-methods critique of and extension of King, Keohane and Verba.

Reading Materials: Assigned readings are available through the reserve desk at Bobst library. You are not required to purchase any books but titles with an asterisk * are available in the NYU bookstore.

**Week One (September 3): 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.

**NATIONS, ETHNIC GROUPS, AND NATIONALISM: ORIGINS, SPREAD, MODERNITY (Weeks 2-5)**

**Week Two (September 10)**


Week Three (September 17)


Week Four (September 24)


Week Five (October 1)


**Week Six (October 8): Identity Shaping: History, Context and Choice**


**Week Seven (October 22): Politics of Belonging**

Bauböck Rainer, “Towards a Political Theory of Migrant Transnationalism,” *The International Migration Review*, vol. 37, no. 3 (Fall 2003), pp. 700-723.


***NO Tuesday Classes at NYU on OCTOBER 15—Monday schedule is followed.***

**Week Eight (October 29): Motivations for Violence**


**Week Nine (November 5): Citizenship**


**Week Ten (November 12): Immigration and Multiculturalism**


**Week Eleven (November 19): Religion**


**Week Twelve (November 26): Questioning Assumptions**


**Week Thirteen (December 3): Violence**


**Week Fourteen (December 10): National/Ethnic Conflict Case Studies**

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