

**Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Religion in World Politics**  
**POSC 370 K**  
**Case Western Reserve University**  
**Spring 2007**

Professor Pete W. Moore  
Office phone: 368-5265  
e-mail: pete.moore@case.edu  
**Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:30**  
**Friday 12:00-1:00**

This course is designed to comparatively examine different contexts of ethnic, nationalist, and religious violence. Students will engage in collaborative research projects as well as individual writing assignments to explore variation in the sources and effects of this type of violence. The course begins by exposing students to some of the classic philosophical tracts on what constitutes ethnicity and identity and then moves to historical case studies. Students will be organized into groups to represent and simulate actual political and social actors in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and North America. These groups will present to the class their organization's goals and resort to violence. The rest of class will then critically question the players to illuminate motives and ambiguities.

**Assigned Texts**

For each lecture, there are assigned readings from books and articles. All readings are on reserve in the library. Three texts comprise much of the readings for each class. The texts are available in the bookstore:

- o Altina Waller, *Fued: Hatfields, McCoys, and Social Change in Appalachia, 1860-1900*
- o Fergal Keane, *Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey*
- o Shaul Mishal and Avraham Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas* **(the 2006 edition)**

**Grades and responsibilities**

Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures as well as assigned readings. Grading is comprised of four components:

- |    |                               |            |
|----|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Mid-term examination          | <b>20%</b> |
| 2. | Red team presentation (group) | <b>15%</b> |
| 3. | Red team paper (individual)   | <b>25%</b> |
| 4. | Final examination             | <b>40%</b> |

In addition to the mid-term and final, five class simulations (Red Teams) will also be scheduled. Each student will be assigned to a simulation team designed to present an account of that group's resort to violence. Each member will present a 7 page double-spaced (minimum) to 10 page (maximum) analysis of their group's goals, reasons for action, and expectations. The presentation to class (and defense against questioning) will be a **team effort**. The paper will be an **individual effort**. You will receive a grade for each.

## LECTURES AND SIMULATIONS

This course is designed to compare decision making strategies and political conditions across 5 simulation cases. To develop and learn from the simulations requires substantial reading and analysis. Please keep up.

Most readings can be accessed through the library's online reserve system. Other readings are drawn from the required course texts.

### **1/17 Introduction**

*In the first half of the course we will examine general theories of power, conflict, and ethnicity in the modern world. Some of these readings are by political theorists, some by sociologists, and some by anthropologists. Gain an understanding of how each author defines the subject, the problem, and the argument.*

### **1/22 Differences and Conflict in the Modern World**

James Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*, pp. 1-16.  
Start reading, Hanna Arendt, "On Violence"

### **1/24 NO CLASS, will make up on 2/7**

### **1/29 Violence and Power**

Hanna Arendt, "On Violence"

### **1/31 Ethnicity I**

Max Weber, "The Origins of Ethnic Groups."  
Steve Fenton, "The Primordialism Debate"

### **2/5 Ethnicity II**

Stefan Wolff, "What causes ethnic conflicts?"

*Based on the debates surrounding ethnicity and conflict, the first simulation case will be set in 19<sup>th</sup> century Appalachia. Waller is a historian and is making a clear case to explain the*

*historic Hatfield/McCoy Feud. Understand what Waller argues is not responsible for this violence and what is responsible. Does this case carry lessons for social violence today?*

**2/7 Violence and hillbillies in 19<sup>th</sup> century America**

Altina Waller, *Fued: Hatfields, McCoys, and Social Change in Appalachia, 1860-1900* (University of North Carolina, 1988), pp.17-101

**\*\*Evening of 2/7 event to attend (makeup for 1/24)\*\*  
*Arabs and Terrorism, Strosacker Hall, 5pm***

**2/12 Institutional Change in Appalachia**

Waller, *Fued*, pp.139-181.

**2/14 RED TEAM: McCoys**

Waller, *Fued*, pp. 206-249.

*What is nationalism and what forms does it take? In this simulation we will read some of the classic texts on nationalism, violence, and liberation. How can this help us understand the Iraqi insurgency?*

**2/19 Nationalism**

Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, pp. 1-7

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, pp. 9-46

**2/21 Ethno-Nationalism and Liberation**

Joane Nagel, "Ethnic Nationalism: Politics, Ideology, the World Order."

Frantz Fanon, "Concerning Violence, from *The Wretched of the Earth: The Handbook for the Black Revolution that is Changing the Shape of the World*

The Fanon piece and Sarte preface below are examples of liberation tracts amidst the struggle of decolonization.

**2/26 MOVIE: *Battle of Algiers***

Jean-Paul Satre, "Preface" to *The Wretched of the Earth: The Handbook for the Black Revolution that is Changing the Shape of the World*, by Franz Fanon (Grove Weidenfeld, 1963).

**2/28 MOVIE cont'd**

Begin reading, Ahmed Hashim, "Origins and Motives of the Insurgency."

**3/5 The Iraqi Insurgency Compared**

Ahmed Hashim, "Origins and Motives of the Insurgency."

**3/7 RED TEAM: US Counterinsurgency (MIDTERM TAKEHOME)**

**3/12-3/16 BREAK**

*Organized crime comes in many varieties. These sections will explore the economic and ethnic dimensions of organized criminal violence. How can the operations, goals, and concerns of such an organization compare with the previous simulation groups?*

**3/19 Organized crime as ethnic group (MIDTERM DUE)**

Henner Hess, "The Traditional Sicilian Mafia: Organized Crime and Repressive Crime," *In Organized Crime: A Global Perspective*

**3/21 Trust and Crime**

Diego Gambetta, "Mafia: The Price of Distrust," in *Trust: Making and Breaking Cooperative Relations*.

**3/26 RED TEAM: The Wise Guys**

*The intersection of religion and politics is an enduring feature of modern life. How do religious based groups operate in a political environment? What is more important to these groups, religious doctrine and interpretation or political necessity? These next sections will examine these issues through the case of HAMAS.*

**3/28 Politics and Islam**

Guilain Denoex, "The Forgotten Swamp: Navigating Political Islam"  
Mishal and Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*, pp.1-82

**4/2 The Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine**

Mishal and Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*, pp.1-82

**4/4 MOVIE, *Paradise Now***

Scott Anderson, "Israeli. Peacenik. Elite Commando: Yaniv Sagee Can't Win." *The New York Times Magazine*

**4/9 MOVIE, *Paradise Now***

**4/11 RED TEAM: HAMAS**

Mishal and Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*, pp.83-146

*The final section will explore the most extreme form of political violence, genocide. What drove Hutu militants to genocide in 1994? Is reconciliation possible after such violence?*

**4/16 Genocide and the question of ethnicity**

Mahmood Mamdani, "Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities."

**4/18 Into Rwanda I**

Fergal Keane, *Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey*, pp.1-30.

**4/23 Rwanda II**

Fergal Keane, *Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey*, pp. 47-93.

Samantha Power, *A Problem from Hell*, pp. 354-377.

**4/25 RED TEAM: Tutsi political leadership**

Fergal Keane, *Season of blood: A Rwandan Journey*, pp. 95-191

**4/30 Review**