



Nationalist Groups and Ethnic Conflict

GVPT 409M
Fall 2019

Learning Outcomes

This course is an advanced seminar on nationalism and ethnic conflict. Students are expected to gain an understanding of the major causes and consequences of ethnic, nationalist, and separatist conflict. The course will focus on both theories of ethnicity and nationalism, as well as theories of conflict related to these issues. The course will also explore empirical trends in ethnic and nationalist politics. Additionally, students will learn how to interpret and evaluate social science research.

Required Resources

Course website: elms.umd.edu

Texts: Most readings are posted on the course site. Several chapters available on Amazon.

Videos: There are also short video lectures that I'll post for you to watch before class. This is in lieu of the readings, but you can also read the original articles.

Campus Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

Students with disabilities: I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office. Students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide us with documentation or have not had that documentation reviewed by DSS early in the semester cannot be accommodated.

Dr. Kathleen Cunningham

Class Meets

Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:30 – 10:15 am
Tydings 0101

Office Hours

Chincoteague 3117D
Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:30 and by
appointment

Course Communication

Course announcements will be sent through ELMS.

The best way to discuss course material and any issues with course logistics is in person. Please only email via ELMS to set up an appointment with me.

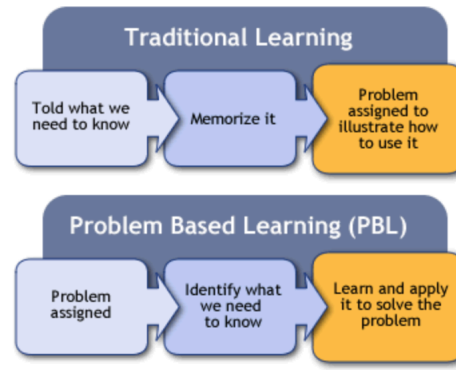
Missing Class

You do not need to contact me about missing regular class meetings. I will assume you are making every effort to attend each session.

Activities, Learning Assessments, & Expectations for Students

This course will be a mix of traditional lecture, collaborative work during class meetings, and problem-based learning. Problem based learning (PBL) focuses on acquiring information, creative thinking, and problem solving. The basic steps include:

1. Examine and define the problem.
2. Explore what we already know about underlying issues related to it.
3. Determine what you need to learn and where you can acquire the information.
4. Evaluate possible ways to solve the problem.
5. Solve the problem.
6. Report on the findings.



In each class meeting (starting week 2), I will provide with you with the “problem,” often framed as a social dilemma or a research question. A part of each class meeting will be PBL in small groups.

While the course style will rely on interactive participation, assessment for course grades will be individual for each student. Students are expected to do the reading before the class meetings. I will highlight central points, but not lecture on the readings.

The course is thematically divided into three modules:

Module 1: Deep thinking

- Talking about ideas
- Self-reflection/identification
- Cultural practices
- Literature
- Contemporary politics

Module 2: Identifying the “problems”

- Reading political science research
- Identifying proximate and underlying causes of conflict
- Breaking down causes

Module 3: Identifying possible solutions

- Linking problems to policies
- Resolution options:
 - political institutions
 - international action
 - social change

Reading and Understanding Research:

For every piece of research that we engage with, you will learn to

- Understand core concepts
- Understand core argument
- Science it: Evaluate assumptions; Evaluate evidence; Be critical
 - What does this tell us or not tell us?
- Synthesize it: How does this relate to other things we know?

Grades

Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually (not curved). All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page.

Student grades are based on the following

Module 1: short answer exams (30%)

Module 2: short answer exams (30%)

Module 3: in-class essay (30%)

In class debate (10%)

Module 1 and 2 exams are short answer and taken in class (or a computer lab). The module 3 essay will be a critical thinking essay in response to a question and written in class.

Final letter grades are assigned based on the percentage of total assessment points earned. To be fair to everyone I have to establish clear standards and apply them consistently, so please understand that being close to a cutoff will not result in a different grade (89.99 \neq 90.00). It would be unethical to make exceptions for some and not others. The cut offs are as follows:

A	93%+	C	73% - 76.99%
A-	90% - 92.99%	C-	70% - 72.99%
B+	87% - 89.99%	D+	67% - 69.99%
B	83% - 86.99%	D	63% - 66.99%
B-	80% - 82.99%	D-	60% - 62.99%
C+	77% - 79.99%	F	lower than 60%

Course-Specific Policies

Technology. The use of cell phones is not permitted in class. If you have critical communication to attend to, please excuse yourself and return when you are ready. For more information about the science behind the policy watch: youtu.be/WwPaw3Fx5Hk

For this course, your final paper will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page. I have chosen to use this tool because it can help you improve your scholarly writing and help me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit [Turnitin Originality Checker for Students](#)

Student Resources

The University of Maryland is concerned about student wellbeing. If you are having difficulty, I encourage you to visit tutoring.umd.edu or the campus writing center at ter.ps/writing to learn more about the wide range of campus resources available to you. There are a wide range of resources to support you in whatever way you might need (see go.umd.edu/assistance), including mental health and stress management. Visit counseling.umd.edu or one of the many other resources on campus. Most services are free.

Basic Needs Security: If you have difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or lack a safe and stable place to live and believe this may affect your performance in this course, please visit go.umd.edu/basic-needs for information about resources the campus offers you.

Names/Pronouns and Self Identifications: The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering inclusive and equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him,

she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit trans.umd.edu to learn more.

Tentative Course Schedule

This is a tentative schedule, subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for updates.

Module 1: Conceptualizing nationalism and ethnicity

Week 1 (8/27 & 8/29)

Read: nothing before classes this week. At your convenience, read:

1. Section 1 for Nationalism
2. Reading Political Science

Week 2 (9/3 & 9/5)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Kedourie, Brass

Watch for Thursday:

2. What is ethnicity video

*Bring information on 2 identities

Week 3 (9/10 & 9/12)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Hale

Read for Thursday:

2. Pearlman

Week 4 (9/17 & 9/19)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Kauffman

Exam 1 on Thursday

Module 2: Causes of conflict/mobilization

Week 5 (9/24 & 9/26)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Jenne

Read for Thursday:

2. Brancati

Week 6 (10/1 & 10/3)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Mueller

Read for Thursday

2. Cunningham (Civil War) on amazon (see link in ELMS files)

Week 7 (10/8 & 10/10)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Gourevitch

Watch for Thursday:

2. Alesina video

Week 8 (10/15 & 10/17)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Miguel

Watch for Thursday

2. Habyarimana video

Week 9 (10/22 & 10/24)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Snyder

Read for Thursday:

2. Zakaria

Week 10 (10/29 & 10/31)

Tuesday: review for module 2 exam

Exam 2 on Thursday

Module 3: Conflict resolution

Week 11 (11/5 & 11/7)

No reading for Tuesday: be prepared to do in class research

Read for Thursday:

1. Sustainable Peace Chapter 1

Week 12 (11/12 & 11/14)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Sustainable Peace Chapter 3

Read for Thursday:

2. Sustainable Peace Chapter 5

Week 13 (11/19)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Sustainable Peace chapter 9

Read for Thursday

1. Fortna

Week 14 (11/26 & 11/28)

Read for Tuesday:

1. Kaufmann
2. Kumar

Week 15 (12/3 & 12/5)

Tuesday – in class debate

Thursday: Review for Module 3 exam

Module 3/final exam is December 12 at 8 am.