

GVPT 301
Identity and Conflict.

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Time and Location: Mondays 2-4:45, TYD 0111.

About the course: Ethnic groups participate in civil wars more than any other types of dissident groups. At the same time religion plays an increasing role in global civil conflict, where sexual violence is a widely acknowledged threat. The common theme across these problems in international security is identity; ethnicity, religion and gender. This course explores the questions of what identity is and where identities originate? Why do most contemporary conflicts centers in one way or another on identity and what are some solutions to conflict where perpetrators and targeted individuals or groups often espouse divergent identities? During the course students will gain a deeper understanding of how identity is embedded in context, how identity is manipulated for political ends, and how identity conflict may be resolved.

Taking advantage of the malleability of identity groups, political leaders use religion, ethnicity and gender norms to recruit in-group constituencies including combatants and to justify attacks against out-groups. This is not to say that all ethnic and religious leaders and followers instrumentally employ identity for political ends. Indeed, identity politics combine a complex mix of sincere and instrumental preferences. Examining the idea that identities are manipulable for political ends, students will explore the different meaning of nominally similar identities and how those identities are activated differently across cultures. To this end the course will also highlight some prominent cases of identity conflict across the world.

While much identity conflict is engineered, cultural misunderstanding and lack of trust often hampers conflict resolution. Solutions to conflict that involves identity, call for mutual respect and understanding of inter-personal and/or inter-group cultural differences. By exploring the origin of diversity and thinking critically about their own instrumental and sincere identity preferences as well as that of others, students will learn some fundamental principles of conflict resolution.

Learning Outcomes Cultural Competence

In this course students are expected to:

- Understand and articulate a multiplicity of meanings of the concept of identity.
- Reflect in depth about critical similarities, differences, and intersections between their own and others' identities so as to demonstrate a deepening or transformation of original perspectives.
- Explain how beliefs about identity influence behaviors and practices at the individual, organizational or societal levels.
- Compare and contrast similarities, differences, and intersections among two or more identities.
- Effectively use skills to negotiate identity conflicts.

Course Materials

Electronic copies or links to course theoretical readings will be posted on CANVAS. In addition to theory we will explore a number of real world cases. Some of the case material is presented in class, some is posted on CANVAS but students will have to do substantial research of cases outside class to complete their assignments.

Skills Assessment and Grading

The assessment of Cultural Competence learning will incorporate both evaluation of skills acquisition and social ownership.

- Skills assessment. The assessment of skills takes place via class *participation*, a *midterm* and a *term paper* where students are asked to explain and apply the concepts covered. Explanation pertains to the definition and understanding of concepts. Application refers to the use of conceptual tools in identifying and resolving a problem.
- Social ownership. The assessment of social ownership refers to the practice of putting students in the position of teachers by way of public *group presentation*. In this class students are asked to give short class *presentations* of the readings and cases. Furthermore, groups of students are asked to explore in depth and *present* to the class a given identity conflict along with actionable solutions to that conflict.

The weight of each graded Assignment is as follows

Class participation: 10%

Students are expected to read the materials assigned before class and come prepared to discuss the topics. It is especially important that students consider the theory in the context of the real world cases discussed and be prepared to debate or evaluate theories and strategies for conflict resolution with respect to identity types and real world cases. Because not everyone is at their personal best every time when called on in front of their peers, participation will include opportunities to submit reflections after class where

students can reflect on parts they liked about the discussion, have the opportunity to raise points they wish had been addresses and ruminate on counterfactuals.

Short presentations of theoretical readings and cases: 15%

At each meeting the professor will set the stage for the days discussion and explain the context and broader theoretical significance of the readings. The professor will also deliver some background of the cases being discussed that day. Students will then take turns reflecting on the theory presented in the readings as it pertains to the cases being discussed. In their reflection students are asked to compare and contrast similarities, differences, and intersections among two or more identities presented in the readings. Students are also encouraged to bring into the discussion examples of identity groups that may not be discussed in the readings but that they feel are pertinent to the discussion.

For example, grievances are making a comeback in studies of ethnic conflict. One particular type of grievance – horizontal inequalities – is theorized as an important cause of ethnic conflict cross nationally. Students might be asked to explain what horizontal inequalities are, how they might contribute to conflict in the abstract, and how this explanation applies to the identity groups discussed. Students are also invited to reflect on how this theory relates to identity groups other than those discussed in the readings.

Midterm: 25%

The first component of the course (identity: from primordial to constructed) introduces the fundamental concepts and theories about identity. Readings and discussions in this part of the course aim to help students understand and articulate a multiplicity of meanings of the concept of identity and reflect in depth about critical similarities, differences, and intersections between their own and others' identities. The second component of the course introduces students to ethnicity (ethnicity and ethnicity and conflict), as this is the classic identity type in the study of identity and conflict. Here we begin to read theories that explain how beliefs about identity influence behaviors and practices at the individual, organizational or societal levels. The third component of the course (conflict resolution) introduces students to two main types of conflict resolution strategies (citizen diplomacy and international intervention).

Before students address solutions to identity conflicts, in their group presentations and final paper, it is imperative that they master the core concepts and strategies. The objective of the midterm is to reinforce the learning of core concepts and strategies. Thus, the midterm consists of short definitions and explanations pertaining to identity, conflict, and conflict resolution. Furthermore, students will be asked to write short essays where they explain which tools are most appropriate and why for resolution of conflicts presented to them in short vignettes. The midterm grade is based on mastery and communication of the concepts both with respect to conceptual clarity and ability to apply the conceptual strategies learned to the cases presented.

Group presentation: 20%

Group presentations constitute the culmination of a group assignment where, drawing on the conflict resolution approaches covered in class, students use their skills in negotiating identity conflict. The projects are loosely structured simulations where each group is split into three actors, two identity groups at odds and mediators, both local and international. Each group is then assigned a difficult real world case where the conflict may center of ethnicity or religion and members of the group are asked to formulate an actionable solution to the conflict, incorporating both strategies of citizen diplomacy and international mediation. The groups then present both sides of their case and their conflict resolution to their classmates.

The group presentations are graded in three ways. First, to ensure equitable division of labor is an anonymous in-group survey (using qualtrics 360) where each member of the team individually grades the contribution of other team members (valued at 20% of the total 20%). Second, classmates observing the presentation turn in individual assessments of the group presentation. The emphasis in peer evaluations is on clarity in presentation of the divergent viewpoints that the case represents, and with respect to content, the transparency and feasibility of the actionable program presented (20% of 20%). Finally, the instructor evaluates the group presentations with emphasis on mastery of the material, clarity in presentation of the divergent identity viewpoints that the case represents, and the transparency and feasibility for all parties involved of the actionable program presented (60% of 20%).

Final paper: 30%

The final paper for the class is an individual project where the student chooses a case of identity conflict (ethnicity, religion or gender) that resonates with them on a personal level. The student is expected to conduct in depth research, write an analysis of the case that represents relevant opposing viewpoints, and suggest actionable strategies to ameliorate the conflict. In this project students are expected to compare and contrast similarities, differences, and intersections among two or more identities and explain how beliefs about identity influence behaviors and practices at the individual, organizational or societal levels. It is in this project that students have the greatest opportunity to reflect in depth about critical similarities, differences, and intersections between their own and others' identities. Thoughtful considerations of actionable strategies to move participants toward resolution of a conflict that resonates with students on a personal level gives the student the opportunity to demonstrate a deepening or transformation of original perspectives about identity and identity conflict.

For University policies including:

Attendance, Absences, or Missed Assignments: **Read this prior to Schedule Adjustment date.**

Academic integrity
Accessibility
Code of conduct
Grade complaints

See: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Class Policies

Be courteous in the classroom. Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. All viewpoints from all students are welcome and encouraged, irrespective of ethnicity, race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation.

A discussion of current political events will take place in class. Some students may find some of the political events disturbing and political discussions can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Students are expected to be respectful of the opinions of others, regardless of whether they share similar opinions or beliefs. Debates will be cut short that do not enhance understanding of course concepts. Students are expected to offer substantive comments and questions when appropriate. Students are also expected to not dominate a conversation, but to allow a free discussion and exchange of ideas.

Please be on time for class and stay until the end, unless you have made special arrangements with me. Entering late and leaving early is distracting to the instructor and to other students. At the same time – make sure that you take care of your body during class time. Feel free to stand, walk around the classroom, sit on the floor and move in other ways that facilitate concentrating and participating.

Class schedule

Date	Schedule	Assignments
Week 1 Jan 30	1) Introductions and organization 2) Ethnic identity: From primordialism to constructivism.	Readings
Week 2 Feb 6	Ethnicity and conflict.	Reading/Case presentations
Week 3 Feb 13	Conflict Resolution. Foundations.	Reading/Case presentations
Week 4 Feb 20	Conflict Resolution: International Aspects.	Reading/Case presentations
Week 5 Feb 27	Ethnicity and Conflict resolution	Reading
Week 6 March 6	Religion and Conflict	Reading/Case presentations
Week 7 March 13	Midterm	Group assignments with case due. Set up a meeting with the professor to discuss your presentation strategy.
Week 8 March 20	No Class UMD Spring Break	
Week 9 March 27	Religion and Conflict	Reading/Case presentations
Week 10 April 3	Religion and Conflict Resolution	Reading/Case presentations
Week 11 April 10	Gender, Gender and conflict	Reading/Case presentations
Week 12 April 17	Gender, Conflict and Conflict Resolutions.	Reading/Case presentations
Week 13 April 24	Organization Group presentations	Prepare for group presentations
Week 14 May 1		Group Presentations
Week 15 May 8		Group Presentations
Week 16 May 15	Finals week	Final paper due

Reading list:

Book:

Barsky, Allan Edward. 2014. *Conflict Resolution for the Helping Professions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Available in the bookstore and online).

Articles:

Week 1

Chandra, Kanchan. 2001. "Cumulative Findings in the Study of Ethnic Politics." *APSA-CP*, 12(1): 7-25.¹

Van Evera, Stephen. 2001. "Primordialism Lives." *APSA-CP*, 12(1): 20-22.²

Birnir, Jóhanna Kristín, Jonathan Wilkenfeld, James D Fearon, David D. Laitin, Ted R. Gurr, Dawn Brancati, Stephen Saideman, Amy Pate, Agatha Hultquist. 2015. Socially relevant ethnic groups, ethnic structure and AMAR. 2015. *Journal of Peace Research*. 52(1): 110-115.

Garcia-Navarro, Lulu. 2016. "For affirmative Action Brazil sets up Controversial Boards to determine Race." *Morning Edition. National Public Radio*.³

Case: Generic.

Film: Let that be your last battlefield. Star Trek.⁴

Week 2

Fearon James; David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization*. 54(4):845-877.

Kaufman, Stuart. 2001. "The Symbolic Politics of Ethnic War" in *Modern Hatreds*. Cornell: Cornell University Press.

Wilkinson, Steve. "Constructivist Assumptions and Ethnic Violence." 2001. *APSA-CP*, 12(1): 17-20.⁵

¹ <http://politics.as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/2587/Chandra2001-CumulativeFindings.pdf>

² <http://politics.as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/2587/Chandra2001-CumulativeFindings.pdf>

³ <http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/09/29/495665329/for-affirmative-action-brazil-sets-up-controversial-boards-to-determine-race>

⁴ https://www.amazon.com/Let-That-Your-Last-Battlefield/dp/B005HEG990/ref=sr_1_1?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1485534132&sr=1-1&keywords=let+that+be+your+last+battlefield

⁵ <http://politics.as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/2587/Chandra2001-CumulativeFindings.pdf>

Kaufman, Stuart. 2016. "Ethnicity as a generator of conflict." In Cordell, Karl and Stefan Wolff eds. *Routledge Handbook of Ethnic Conflict*, second edition. 2016. London: Routledge.

Forsberg, Erika, Jóhanna K Birnir, and Christian Davenport. 2016. State of the Field of Ethnic Politics and Conflict: Introduction. *Ethnopolitics*.

Birnir, Jóhanna K; Christian Davenport; Erika Forsberg. 2016. Is Diversity inherently dangerous? *The Monkey Cage*⁶.

Alexievich, Svetlana. 2016. "On a strangers grief that god has deposited on your doorstep." In *Second Hand Time*. Random House.

Case: Northern Ireland

Film: Wind that Shakes the Barley.⁷

Background:

The IRA, BBC Worldwide Ltd. (UMD on demand)⁸

<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/>

Week 3

Ramsbotham, Miall and Woodhouse. 2016. "Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions." In *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Fourth edition. United Kingdom: Polity Press.

Barsky chapters

1 p. 1-15 and p. 25-26,

2 p. 37-57,

3 p. 65-103,

Case: Indonesia

Film: The look of silence.⁹

Background:

⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/16/is-diversity-inherently-dangerous/?utm_term=.45d4c06ea74d

⁷ https://www.amazon.com/Wind-That-Shakes-Barley/dp/B0019XIRIO/ref=sr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1485534244&sr=1-1&keywords=the+wind+that+shakes+the+barley

⁸ http://fod.infobase.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=57571

⁹ https://www.amazon.com/Look-Silence-Adi-Rukun/dp/B018SYXIRQ/ref=sr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1485533927&sr=1-1&keywords=the+look+of+silence

Tadjoeddin: Mohammad Zulfan. 2014. Conflict and Violence in Indonesia: A Background. In *Explaining Collective Violence in Contemporary Indonesia: From Conflict to Cooperation*. Australia: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapters 1 and 4.

Timeline: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15114517>

Week 4

Barsky chapters

4 p. 118-159.

5 p. 185-204

7 p. 254-266

Wallensteen, Peter & Isak Svenson 2014. Talking peace: International mediation in armed conflicts. *Journal of Peace Research*. 51(2):315-327.

Molly Inman, Jonathan Wilkenfeld, Roudabeh Kishi, Michele Gelfand and Elizabeth Salmon. 2014. "Cultural Influences on Mediation in International Crises," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 58(4): 685-712.

Case: Ache, Indonesia continued

Film: The Black Road.¹⁰

Background:

Tadjoeddin: Mohammad Zulfan. 2014. Conflict and Violence in Indonesia: A Background. In *Explaining Collective Violence in Contemporary Indonesia: From Conflict to Cooperation*. Australia: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 3.

Timeline: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15114517>

Week 5

Christian Davenport, Sarah Soule and David Armstrong. 2011. "Protesting While Black? The Differential Policing of American Activism, 1960 to 1990" *American Sociological Review* 76(1): 152-178.

Petersen, Nick, and Geoff Ward. 2015. "The transmission of historical racial violence: Lynching, civil rights–era terror, and contemporary interracial homicide." *Race and Justice*. 5(2): 114-143.

Major, Brenda; Alison Blodorn, Gregory Major. 2016. "The threat of increasing diversity: Why many White Americans support Trump in the 2016 presidential election." *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*. 1-10.

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BGpV8uMR8E>

Lilla, Mark 2016. "The end of identity liberalism." *New York Times*.
<http://nyti.ms/2eNk4WE>

Case: United States

Film: 500 Years later.¹¹

Background: Personal.

Week 6

Lynch, Cecilia. 2014. "A Neo-Weberian Approach to Studying Religion and Violence." *Millennium*. 43(1): 273-290.

Mitchell, Joshua. 2007. "Religion is not a preference." *Journal of Politics*. 69(2): 351-362

McCauley, John F. 2014. "The Political Mobilization of Ethnicity and Religion in Africa." *American Political Science Review*. 108(4): 801-816.

Sobotka, Eva. 2016. Multilateral Frameworks for Conflict Resolution. In Cordell, Karl and Stefan Wolff eds. *Routledge Handbook of Ethnic Conflict*, second edition. London: Routledge.

Case: Azerbaijan

Film: Dark Forest in the Mountains. 1993-94.¹²

Background: Kaufman, Stuart. 2001. "Karabach and the Fears of Minorities." *In Modern Hatreds. The Symbolic Politics of Ethnic War*. Cornell: Cornell University Press.

Alexievich, Svetlana. 2016. "On Romeo and Juliet ... Except their names were Margarita and Abulfaz. In *Second Hand Time*. Random House.

Week 7

Midterm

Week 8

No class UMD spring break.

Week 9

¹¹ https://www.amazon.com/500-Years-Later-Kolbi-Adu/dp/B00T7SW41Y/ref=sr_1_1?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1485534301&sr=1-1&keywords=500+years+later

¹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=993XNE7kHDg>

Basedau, Matthias; Birte Pfeiffer and Johannes Vüllers. 2014. "Bad Religion." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 1-30.

Svensson, Isak. 2013. "One God, Many Wars: Religious dimensions of armed conflict in the Middle East and North Africa", *Civil Wars*. 15(4):411-430.

De Soysa, Indra. Ragnhild Nordås. 2007. "Islam's Bloody Innards? Religion and Political Terror, 1980–2000." *International Studies Quarterly*. 51(4): 927–943.

Birner, Johanna K; Nil Satana; Katherine Sawyer nd. "Alternatives in Outbidding." Not on course reserve. Professor will send the latest version.

Case Pakistan.

Background: Dalrymple, William. 2015. "The great divide." *The New Yorker*.¹³

Film: Among the Believers. 2015.¹⁴

Week 10

Ramsbotham et al. 2016. "Culture, Religion and Conflict Resolution." In *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Fourth edition. United Kingdom: Polity Press.

McCauley, John F. 2014. "Measuring and Reducing Religious Bias in Post-Conflict Zones: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire." *Political Psychology*. 35(2): 267-289.

Isak Svensson, 2007. "Fighting with Faith: Religion and Conflict Resolution in Civil Wars". *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51(6): 930-949.

Isak Svensson & Emily Harding. 2011. "How Holy Wars End: Exploring the Termination Patterns of Conflicts with Religious Dimensions in Asia." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 23:133-149.

Case: Israel-Palestine

Film: Budrus (2011)¹⁵

Background:

Shah, ANup. 2006. "The Middle East Conflict. A background." *Global Issues*.¹⁶
See especially the list of additional resources at the end.

¹³ <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/the-great-divide-books-dalrymple>

¹⁴ http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4504626/?ref_=amzn_sr_tt

¹⁵ [https://www.amazon.com/Budrus-Ayed-](https://www.amazon.com/Budrus-Ayed-Morarr/dp/B004J169PQ/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1485535384&sr=8-1&keywords=Budrus)

[Morarr/dp/B004J169PQ/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1485535384&sr=8-1&keywords=Budrus](https://www.amazon.com/Budrus-Ayed-Morarr/dp/B004J169PQ/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1485535384&sr=8-1&keywords=Budrus)

¹⁶ <http://www.globalissues.org/article/119/the-middle-east-conflict-a-brief-background>

and

Abu-Nimer. M. 2001. "Religious Leaders in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: From Violent Incitement to Nonviolence Resistance." *Peace and Change*, 36 (4): 556-580.

Week 11

Elizabeth L. Haines, Kay Deaux, and Nicole Lofaro. 2016. "The Times They Are a- Changing . . . or Are They Not? A Comparison of Gender Stereotypes, 1983–2014." *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. 40(3):353-363.

Sjoberg, Laura. 2015. "Seeing sex, gender and sexuality in international security." *International Journal*. 70(3): 434–453

Gilsinan, Kathy. 2016. "The myth of female foreign policy". *The Atlantic*.¹⁷

Smith, Adam. 2016. Pick and Mx. The Economist Professor will send this short article.

*Case: Pakistan*¹⁸

Background: See week 9

Dalrymple, William. 2015. "The great divide." *The New Yorker*.¹⁹

Film: Saving Face²⁰

or A girl in the river

Week 12²¹²²

Thomas, Jakana L., and Kanisha D. Bond. 2015. "Womens Participation in Violent Political Organizations." *American Political Science Review*. 109 (3): 488-506.

¹⁷ <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/08/-foreign-policy-clinton-may-thatcher-women-leadership/497288/>

¹⁸ For a current account on the lives of women in Pakistan see:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/rampant-violence-against-women-in-pakistan-revealed-as-groups-fight-un-islamic-law-against-domestic-a6969311.html>

http://hrcep-web.org/hrcepweb/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Women_12.pdf

¹⁹ <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/the-great-divide-books-dalrymple>

²⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rd1DebORZAs>

²¹ See also Gender in Peacebuilding. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2dd7SFdsjY> : "Three women... share their experience in fostering peace and human rights in Uganda, the Philippines and Colombia... Series: "Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Distinguished Lecture Series" [11/2006]."

²² For background on violence against women in various conflicts see:

<http://www.womenundersiegeproject.org/conflicts>

and

<http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>

Cohen, Dara Kay and Ragnhild Nordås. 2015 "Do States Delegate Shameful Violence to Militias? Patterns of Sexual Violence in Recent Armed Conflicts." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 59(5) 877-898.

Karim, S, and Beardsley, K. 2013. "Female Peacekeepers and Gender Balancing: Token Gestures or Informed Policymaking?." *International Interactions* 39(4): 461-488.

Ramsbotham et al. 2016. "Gender and Conflict Resolution" In *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Fourth edition. United Kingdom: Polity Press.

Case: Former Yugoslavia.

Background: Kaufman, Stuart. 2001. "Government Jingoism and the Fall of Yugoslavia." In *Modern Hatreds*. Cornell: Cornell University Press.

and

Amnesty international: Still on the Frontline.²³

Film: In the land of Blood and Honey.²⁴

Week 13

Preparation for group presentations.

Prof away Birnir at a conference – Classroom available for meetings.

Week 14

Group presentations of case and conflict resolution.

Week 15

Group presentations of case and conflict resolution.

Week 16

Final paper due.

²³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_profilepage&v=ZWwNITPX2vk#at=570

²⁴ https://www.amazon.com/Land-Blood-Honey-Zana-Marjanovic/dp/B007AMMLLW/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1485534558&sr=8-1&keywords=In+the+land+of+blood+and+honey