Course Description:

The existence of ethnic minorities and competing nations within the majority of states has increasingly been recognized in international relations studies, especially since the end of the Cold War. This course focuses on the conflicts generated by nationalist demand for political recognition and concludes with an examination of the controversial issue of intervention by other states and international organizations in civil war within sovereign states and a variety of venues of conflict management, resolution and transformation.

The course is divided into three parts. Part I focuses on various theoretical perspectives and the process of ethnic conflicts by examining the dynamic of nation formation and the conflict it has generated within sovereign states. Part II examines how ethnic conflicts have been dealt with and what lessons can be learned from the cases. Part III explores what is needed to move from conflict management to resolution and transformation. The approach to this topic is global in scope with the use of selected cases for in-depth analysis of specific instances and comparative purposes.

Course goals:

This course is intended to equip students with analytical skills of ethnic conflict management by getting students to master the concepts of ethnicity, collective identity and nationalism and its potential roles in generating conflict, knowledge of the area of the conflicts, and mechanisms of conflict management.
Course Requirements: Attendance and willing participation in discussion are expected of everybody. In-session midterm and final examinations are required. A 12-15-page double-spaced term paper is required. It should be an empirical analysis of ethnic-national conditions in one of the six international regions. More specific guidelines regarding paper topic, bibliography and outline, and draft paper, and final exam will be presented during the early weeks of the semester. The proportion of the course grade accounted for by each of the requirements is as follows:

- Attendance and participation 20%
- Term paper 30%
- Midterm exam 20%
- Final exam 30%

Required Readings:

1) IR315 Course Reader [hereafter “Reading”], if not instructed otherwise, is available for purchase at the Magic Machine located at the University Village.
2) All GUISD cases can be purchased online at http://www.guisd.org/

I. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES and THE NATURE OF ETHNIC CONFLICT

**Week 1** (Jan. 11-13): Ethnicity, Nation and Nationalism: *Definitions and Theories*

**Tuesday 11:** Course Overview and Class Assignments

**Thursday 13:** Introduction to Ethnicity and Nationalism


**Week 2** (Jan. 18-20): Applying nationalism approaches to case studies

**Tuesday, Jan. 18**


**Thursday, Jan. 20**


**Week 3 (Jan. 25-27): Sources of Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict**

**Tuesday, Jan. 25**


**Thursday, Jan. 27**


**Week 4 (Feb. 1-3): Ethno-religious conflict: The Role of Religion**

**Tuesday, Feb. 1**


Thursday, Feb. 3


IMPORTANT DEADLINE: Paper topic due in class on Feb. 3

Week 5 (Feb. 8-10): International Dimension of Ethnic Conflict

Tuesday, Feb. 8


Thursday, Feb. 10

CASE TO DISCUSS/CYPRUS: Omur Yilmaz and Deborah J. Gerner, “The US and the British Mediation Efforts During the 1974 Crisis over Cyprus,” GUISD, Case no. 269.

II. DEALING WITH CONFLICT

Week 6 (Feb. 15-17): Is War Inevitable in Multi-Ethnic Societies?

Tuesday, Feb. 15


Thursday. Feb. 17


CASE FOR DISCUSSION/East Timor and Indonesia: Lena Tan, “From Incorporation to Disengagement: East Timor and Indonesian Identities, 1975-1999,” in *op cit.*, pp. 177-209.

**Week 7 (Feb. 22-24): Managing interethnic conflict in multiethnic societies**

Tuesday, Feb. 22


Thursday, Feb. 24


**Week 8 (March 1-3): Third Party Intervention and the questions of ethics**

Tuesday, March 1


Thursday, March 3

CASE TO DISCUSS/Rwanda: John Ausink, “Watershed in Rwanda,” GUISD no. 374.

**Week 9 (March 8-10): Partition and Separation**

Tuesday, March 8


**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, MIDTERM EXAM (IN CLASS)**

You must bring your own blue book(s).

**March 14-19: Spring Break!**

**Week 10 (March. 22-24): Conflict Management—Mediation and Negotiation**

Tuesday, March 22


Louis Kriesberg, “Contemporary Conflict Resolution Applications,” Ch. 26, in *Unleashing the dogs of war*, *op cit.*, pp. 455-475.

Thursday, March 24

**IMPORTANT DEADLINE: Outline and Bibliography due in class on March 24**


CASE FOR DISCUSSION/ANGOLA: Abjodun Williams, “In Search of Peace: Negotiations to End the Angolan Civil War,” GUISD, Case no. 460.

**Week 11: (March 29-March 31): Prevention of Ethnic Conflict**

Tuesday, March 29


CASE FOR DISCUSSION/Fiji (Managing Gestation of Conflict): Ralp R. Premdas, “Peacemaking in a Multiethnic State” Ch. 6, op cit., pp. 133-159.

Thursday, March 31


III. CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

What Is Needed to Move From Management to Resolution and Transformation?

Week 12 (April 5-7):

Tuesday, April 5


Fen Osler Hampson, “The Need to Nurture Peace,” in Nurturing Peace: Why Peace Agreements Succeed or Fail, Ch. 1, pp. 3-25.

Thursday, April 7


Week 13 (April 12-14), The Role of Regional Organizations and NGOs in Prevention, Peacekeeping and Peace building

Tuesday, Apr. 12


CASES FOR DISCUSSION/HUMANITARIAN NGOs:
Mary Anderson, “Humanitarian NGOs in Conflict Intervention,” in Chester Crocker Sources and Responses to International Conflict, 256-290.

Thursday Apr. 14


**IMPORTANT DEADLINE: Draft paper is due in lecture on April 14**

**Week 14: (April 20-22): Truth Commissions and War Crimes Tribunals**

Tuesday, April 20


Thursday, April 22


**Week 15: April 26-28, Conclusion and Final Exam Review**

**Final Paper due in class on April 28** (Must be a 12-15-page double-spaced term paper)

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 11, 2:00-4:00 pm**
Additional Course Requirements

Be sure to read these paragraphs carefully. By enrolling in this course, you agree to fulfill the following course requirements (as well as all relevant university regulations). Violations will result in grade reductions and/or failure of, and removal from, this course.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation in lectures and sections are required. Students who do not observe this requirement will fail the course. In particular, students repeatedly missing class will receive a grade reduction, and any student missing more than half of the lectures in this course (that is 14 lectures) will automatically fail the course regardless of any work completed.

Cellphones and Laptops

NO CELLPHONES-You will be asked to leave the course for a day if caught using your phone.

YOU MAY USE COMPUTERS FOR NOTES BUT NO FACEBOOK, MYSPACE OR ANY OTHER INTERNET SURFING. You will be asked to leave class if caught violating this rule.

Disabilities

I need to know as soon as possible about your disability and your requirements. Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability must register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations must be obtained from DSP (once adequate documentation is filed). Please deliver a copy of the letter to me as soon as possible and, at the very latest, as indicated on the DSP website, three weeks before the requirement on which you are requesting an adjustment. This means “no later than Tuesday Feb. 23, three weeks before the first exam” (if you are requesting adjustments on exams). After these dates, in order to maintain the academic integrity of the class, adjustments can only be made for new diagnoses, so be sure to file your request for an adjustment in time. DSP is in STU 301; the phone number is 213-740-0776.

Make-up Requirements

There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences or unannounced failure to appear or hand in an assignment. Acceptable excuses must be provided to the instructor, in writing, or by phone before an absence or failure to complete work and in writing afterwards in order to be considered. After considering the written communication, a decision will be made about make-up possibilities.

Plagiarism and Cheating
Students must avoid plagiarism and/or cheating on exams. If they see or hear of another student acting in this manner, they must report it to the instructor. The instructor of this course, and the university as a whole, are committed to the general principles of academic honesty. These principles include and incorporate the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own.

You will automatically be failed in the course if you are caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing the term paper. This is the recommended penalty in SCampus, whose relevant section you should review online at http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/appendix_a.html. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) copying text from the web (for example, from Wikipedia) and pasting it anywhere (online or hardcopy) without attribution, implying that it is your own work. If you are in any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ASK! We would far prefer to clear up uncertainties informally in advance rather than formally via plagiarism proceedings.

Language and Communications

In lectures and discussions, students must ask questions and conduct debate in a respectful fashion, using appropriate language. Email communications must also be conducted in an appropriate and respectful manner.

Recordings

Recordings of any type (sound or video) are prohibited except by written permission of the instructor.

Travel

The instructor will not accept travel, the purchase of plane tickets, absence from LA, and similar events (except for university-approved travel) as excuses for failing to fulfill course requirements. If you have made travel plans before the start of this semester, please make sure they will allow you to fulfill all course requirements. Excused absences are allowed on the basis of acceptable medical documents and other acceptable emergency reasons.