Overview
The course begins by introducing basic theoretical concepts and issues. What is a nation? How is a nation different from an ethnic group? Under what conditions do national self-determination movements gain greater ideological influence and political power? Next, we review some basic factors used to explain international conflicts, which are also relevant to explaining ethnic conflict. How are the geographic settlement patterns of ethnic groups likely to affect their relations and the nature of their conflicts? What kinds of expected balances of power are more conducive to war or to peace? Is it better to have more or less evenly balanced power? Do power balances deter ethnic conflicts in the same way as non-ethnic conflicts? Do participants in ethnic conflicts assess and value risk in the same way as in non-ethnic conflicts? How does the ability or inability to make credible commitments affect the likelihood of war? Is it more or less difficult to make credible commitments relevant to ethnic conflicts? How do security dilemmas contribute to conflict? What are the characteristics of ethnic security dilemmas? How is democracy expected to reduce the probability of inter-state conflicts? Is democracy likely to have similar effects on ethnic conflicts? Under what conditions is war or lower-intensity violence likely to have diversionary benefits for incumbent regimes or internal challengers? What about ethnic conflicts? How are states, incumbent regimes, or other political entities likely to be affected by control of valuable natural resources? Are these types of effects limited to possession of natural resources? Does possession of such resources make conflict more likely? For all of these concepts, we are also interested in effects on the duration and strategy of conflict.

After a brief review of how ethnic cleavages would be expected to affect peacetime politics, we move to a review of recent research on ethnic conflict. In explaining the origins of ethnic conflict, what are the main causal factors? What is the relative importance of such factors? How do such factors interact? What is the value of statistical findings in interpreting particular examples of conflict? We then ask the same questions about the duration and strategies of conflict. Why do some ethnic conflicts last much longer than others? Why do parties to ethnic conflict use different combinations of political and military strategies—from various forms of non-violent political mobilization, organization, and strategies, to conventional war, guerrilla war, terrorism, and ethnic cleansing? What explains the pattern of international intervention in ethnic conflicts? Although military intervention is most important, other kinds of intervention—
such as diplomatic initiatives and economic sanctions—are also important. What are the main ways that ethnic conflicts end? Are some types of conflict more likely to end in some ways than in others? What kinds of “benign” international intervention are most likely to work? We then move on to consider some important consequences of ethnic conflict—in particular, effects on political regime type and economic policymaking.

Last, we apply the theory and statistical tests to understand four major ethnic conflicts. We begin with two major post-communist ethnic conflicts—that between Armenians and Azeris in Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding areas of Azerbaijan, and that involving Croats, Muslims and Serbs in the former Yugoslav Republics of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia. We will then examine two perennial ethnic conflicts of the post-World War II period—that between Hindus and Muslims in India and Pakistan, and that between Jews and Arabs in Israel and the surrounding Arab states and territories. In all of these cases, we are interested in explaining why we see a certain level and character of conflict. These outcomes reflect strategy choices of the major political actors, and these strategy choices reflect political goals, available “technologies” of war and peace, and material and political constraints. To understand these conflicts, we therefore need to understand how these political goals were formed and how material and political constraints have developed. Such an understanding will also help us to see how these conflicts might wind down or end; how they might escalate; and how they might drag on more or less as they are. We can also ask how useful theory and statistical tests are in understanding each conflict, and whether the case studies suggest any new approaches to theory and testing.

Grades
Grades will be based on a final exam (25%), a final research paper (50%), and presentations and participation (25%). Research papers should be 15-25 pages all-inclusive. They should follow the standard four-part structure of empirical social science journal articles: an introduction that states the research question, reviews relevant literature, and summarizes the paper’s findings and structure; a theoretical section that explains the logic of the relevant theories and states the hypotheses to be tested; a research design and measurement section that explains how the relevant variables are related and measured; and a findings and discussion section that summarizes the findings and discusses their significance. A five-page outline summary of the final paper will be due at the beginning of class in week 11 (Mon., April 14). All four sections should be summarized to the extent possible. The research paper is due at the beginning of class on Mon., May 10. The final exam is on Mon., May 17, at 4:30 pm.

Readings
The following required texts are available in the bookstore:


Other required readings are available on the Web or on electronic reserve at Golda Meir Library.

**Course Schedule**

The following schedule is subject to modification.

**Part I: Theoretical Background**


Reading: Posen 1993; Fearon 2000; Toft 2002; Levy 1997; Maoz and Russett 1993; Snyder 2000, chapter 1; Miller 1999; Ross 2004.


**Part II: Theory of Violent Ethno-National Conflict**

**Week 4 (2/15):** Ethnic politics: cooperation and conflict.

Reading: Rothschild 1981; Fearon and Laitin 1996.


**Weeks 5-6 (2/22-3/1):** Violent ethnic conflict: origins.


Reading: Heraclides 1990; Moore and Davis 1998; Carment and James 2004; Hyso forthcoming; Brown et al. 2001, pp. 163-92, 267-98 (chapters by Brown and Oudraat and Howe); Reno 2001; Strobel 1996.


Week 11 (4/12): Consequences, political and economic.
Reading: Horowitz 2005.

Part III: Case Studies in Violent Ethno-National Conflict
Reading II: Burg and Shoup 1999.

Required Readings on the Web or on Electronic Reserve at the Library
Where academic search engines are not indicated, readings are available under the instructor’s name on the UWM Library electronic reserve page <https://library.uwm.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=rbSearch>.
Readings are listed under different undergraduate courses.


Hutchinson, John and Anthony D. Smith, eds. (1994) Nationalism. Oxford: Oxford University Press. The assigned extracts are:


Connor, Walker (1978) “’A Nation is a Nation, is a State, is an Ethnic Group, is a…',” 36-46.


Kumar, Radha. (1997) “The Troubled History of Partition.” *Foreign Affairs* 76, 1, 22-34. (EBSCOhost)


**Optional Readings**


