Online Course Information

Online Access: This course is offered entirely online. All course materials except for the textbooks will be accessible online for reading and viewing. All assignments will be completed and graded online.

Contacting Me: The most reliable way to reach me is by email: shale@uwm.edu. I check email most days during the week (though often not on weekends). If you send an email, please type “Polsci 371” as your subject header.

Computer Skills Needed for the Course: You will need basic word processing skills; the ability to send and receive email; and a simple understanding of how to access and browse Web sites, including our course Web site on Desire2Learn (D2L). You must be able to receive email via your UWM email account, but you may also forward your UWM email to a private account. Checking our D2L course Web site regularly is very important to your ability to do well in this course.

Computer Resources Needed for the Course: You will need routine access either to a computer that has a broadband connection, or to a campus network connection to the Web. If you don’t have your own computer, you will need to use one of the campus lab computers, or perhaps a computer in the public library. Avoid using a wireless connection when taking exams. The computer you use must have a basic word processing package, such as Microsoft Word. You will also need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view Adobe PDF files.

Keeping Up with the Course: Winterim courses move very fast, and make large demands on your time. You will have to organize your time well to get all of the work done.

Workload Requirement: This course should require a time commitment of approximately eight hours for each workday (excluding weekends). This covers reading and study of the textbooks, articles and lecture notes, along with exam preparation.

Grades

Grades will be based on four multiple-choice exams (25% of the grade each). These exams focus on the material covered in the previous three or four days of lecture notes and other assigned readings. The exams must be completed online, between 7:00 a.m. in the morning and either 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. at night, as follows:

- Friday, January 5, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, January 6, 2:00 a.m. Note 2:00 a.m. end-time due to D2L maintenance!
- Wednesday, January 10, 7:00 a.m.-Thursday, January 11, 3:00 a.m.
- Monday, January 15, 7:00 a.m.-Tuesday, January 16, 3:00 a.m.
- Friday, January 19, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, January 20, 2:00 a.m. Note 2:00 a.m. end-time due to D2L maintenance!
No make-up exams will be given. If there is a medical emergency, documented by a written excuse from a health care provider, an exam may be dropped. In this case, the grade will be calculated based on the other four exams taken.

You will take the exams online in a timed format. You will have a set amount of time (25 minutes) to take an exam. You must complete the exam in that amount of time. Exams must be started and completed during the specified (19- or 20-hour) time window. (For example, if the exam window ends at 2:00 a.m., then a 25-minute exam should be started no later than 1:30 a.m.—allowing a few extra minutes to log on.)

After the allotted time to complete the exam (25 minutes) has passed, the exam will be submitted automatically as is. If you finish in less than the allotted time, you may submit the exam yourself.

Once you start an exam, you must finish it within the allotted time—there is no starting an exam, exiting, and coming back to it at another time. Each exam may only be taken one time. If your internet connection fails, you may log back on and continue the exam within the allotted time. Students are responsible to have reliable internet connections. To minimize problems, use wired rather than wireless internet connections.

Again, all four short exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Be sure to click on the relevant D2L icons to save your work as you answer each question, and to submit your completed exam.

D2L shows the grades as a percentage score out of 100. However, these percentage scores do not equate directly to grades. Exam grades will be based on a curve, which takes account of how well the class does on any given exam. In an exam of 25 multiple-choice questions, here is an example of a common grading curve in previous courses:

- 17/25 or higher: A = 68% or higher
- 16/25: A- = 64%
- 15/25: B+ = 60%
- 14/25: B = 56%
- 13/25: B- = 52%
- 12/25: C+ = 48%
- 11/25: C = 44%
- 10/25: C- = 40%
- 9/25: D+ = 36%
- 8/25: D = 32%
- 7/25: D- = 28%
- 6/25 or lower: F = 24% or lower

This example may not be exactly the same as the grading curves during this term, but it is usually very close. I will send around an email with the curve after each exam.

Again, final course grades will be based on the average of the curved individual exam grades. Average grades right at the borderline will receive the higher possible grade.

Course Description

The course begins with a brief theoretical introduction. 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? What are the most common kinds of conflicts between such self-determination movements and existing states? What are the various means of settling such conflicts? When are such conflicts most likely to
become violent and stay violent? When violence breaks out, why are some techniques and strategies of warfare used more than others? Why do some conflicts involve mainly conventional warfare, while others see more guerrilla warfare or terrorism? When is “ethnic cleansing”—forced transfer of one or more ethnic populations from a given region—more likely to occur? What role is played by international intervention? What international legal norms govern involvement in ethnic conflicts? What determines whether other countries will contemplate military intervention? What form will this intervention take? What role if any is played by international organizations, such as the United Nations, the European Union, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)? Why? For each major political actor, we take the following explanatory approach: How do factors such as the history of the conflict, the objective characteristics of states and groups, and political institutions influence leaders’ political objectives? These goals or preferences of political actors, along with material and political factors such as initial political and economic conditions, the balance of military power, and likely responses of other actors, lead to choices of political and military strategies. Taken together, these strategies produce the political and military outcomes we are interested in explaining.

Following this theoretical introduction, we will apply the theory to understand three major ethnic conflicts. Like many major ethnic conflicts, these four conflicts are heavily influenced by international intervention. We will begin with a major post-communist ethnic conflict—that between Armenians and Azeris in the former Soviet Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. 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 factors such as political goals or ideologies, political institutions, the military balance of power, and various other material and political conditions and constraints. To understand these conflicts, we therefore need to understand how these ideological, political and material factors have developed over time. Such an understanding will also help us to see why these conflicts might wind down or end, why they might escalate, or why they drag on more or less as they are.

Readings
The following required texts are available in the bookstore:


Other required readings can be downloaded in D2L from the “Content” page.
Course Schedule

Part I: Basic Theory.

Day 1 (Tuesday, January 2): Introduction. Defining and understanding ethnic groups, nations and nationalism, and states. When and how national identities and nationalist movements develop: primordialism, instrumentalism and constructivism. Examples of how national identity and nationalism have evolved in different places and times. Nationalism, the decline of empires, and the modern international system of nation-states.

Reading: Lecture Notes on “Ethnic Group, Nation, and State,” and on “Modern Nation-States and the International System”; Hutchinson and Smith 1994, pp. 21-26, 36-46, 55-70, 83-103, 113-121, 147-159, 162-165, 171-177, 214-225, 254-257, 261-280. (The latter selections from Hutchinson and Smith include (are the same as) the following extracts listed as separate short articles on the course D2L site: Weber 1948; Connor 1978; Gellner 1964; Gellner 1983; Brass 1979; Anderson 1991; van den Berghe 1978; Smith 1981; Smith 1989; Connor 1990; Kohn 1945; Sugar 1969; Robinson 1979; Matossian 1962; Howard 1991; Horowitz 1985; Mayall 1990.)


Recommended reading: Kaufmann 1996.

Exam #1 online:
Friday, January 5, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, January 6, 2:00 a.m. Covers materials from Days 1-3.

Part II: Case Studies.

Days 4-6 (Friday, January 5-Tuesday, January 9): The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict: identities; origins and development of conflicts; nature of international intervention; proposed settlements; future scenarios.


Exam #2 online:
Wednesday, January 10, 7:00 a.m.-Thursday, January 11, 3:00 a.m. Covers materials from Days 4-6.

Days 7-9 (Wednesday, January 10-Friday, January 12): The India-Pakistan conflict: identities; origins and development of conflicts; nature of international intervention; proposed settlements; future scenarios.

Reading: Lecture Notes on “India-Pakistan Conflict”; Ganguly 2001.

Exam #3 online:
Monday, January 15, 7:00 a.m.-Tuesday, January 16, 3:00 a.m. Covers material from Days 7-9.
Days 10-14 (Monday, January 15-Friday, January 19). The Arab-Israeli conflict: identities; origins and development of conflicts; nature of international intervention; proposed settlements; future scenarios.

Reading: Lecture Notes on “Middle East Politics” and “Arab-Israeli Conflict”; Gilbert 2012; Karsh 2011; Karsh 2003, chaps. 9-12; Lewis 2001; Rubin 2002, chaps. 1, 8.

Exam #4 online:
Friday, January 19, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, January 20, 2:00 a.m. Covers material from Days 10-14.

Readings Available on the D2L Course Site under “Content”
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.