

Politics, Groups and Identities

Gov 6101
Spring 2013

Class hours: Wednesday 7-9 pm
106 White Hall
Office hours: by appointment

Professor Michael Jones-Correa
202 White Hall
mj64@cornell.edu
(607) 255-3170

"An identity is questioned only when it is menaced, as when the mighty begin to fall, or when the wretched begin to rise, or when the stranger enters the gates, never, thereafter, to be a stranger: the stranger's presence making you the stranger, less to the stranger than to yourself." James Baldwin, *The Devil Finds Work*

**

Social scientists often treat ethnicity, nationalism and race as descriptive categories or variables, while avoiding actually defining these categories, or thinking about how they should be used. When they do pause to think about group membership, it is often characterized as shaped by 'interests.' Does this characterization fit group categories like nationalism, ethnicity, citizenship and even party membership? How do these social groups work? Are they social constructions? If constructed, how? What constrains/structures these constructions? Are some constructions better representations of identity than others, and what does this mean? How should we go about applying these categories in social analysis?

Course Requirements

This is a graduate level course, taught in seminar format. Each class meeting will revolve around a discussion of the readings. Class participation and writing assignments will be organized as follows:

Option 1: For this course you will write a short reaction memo each week, two 10-15 page essays, and help lead at least one class discussion. Read the course material carefully and be prepared to participate in class discussion. Attendance, preparation and participation are expected and will be taken into account in assigning final grades.

The reaction memos should be about a page in length and present your response to the readings for that week. You need not cover each and every reading for the week in these papers. The point is to focus on and analyze what you see as important, interesting issues in the reading. The memo should be analytical, not a summary. These are due via email by midnight on the Tuesday evening before class.

The two longer essays will be due at approximately the middle and end of the semester. These can be a critical paper or an analytical literature review. Literature review papers should go beyond the required readings listed on the syllabus and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the research, and offer an assessment of possible directions for future research.

Finally, each student is responsible for opening up class discussion on one or more week's readings. While this might involve some summarizing of key arguments, the intent is to generate discussion around key issues. You should focus on what you find to be particularly interesting, problematic or persuasive in the reading and expect to take about 10-15 minutes. Do not present long summaries of materials.

Option 2: Those students who choose to may wish to write an original research paper, a detailed research design or another type of empirical paper. The general points above still apply, but the written requirements would be the reaction memos, a mid semester 1-2 page update on your research progress, and your research paper due at the end of the course. You will also lead class discussion as outlined above. If you are interested in this option, come by during office hours or set up an appointment within the first three weeks of the semester.

Materials

Required readings will be available on reserve in the Government reading room in Olin Library (room 405). Articles will be available on Dropbox. You may want to consider purchasing some of the books on your own.

- Beltrán, Cristina. 2010. *The Trouble with Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Green, Donald, Brad Palmquist and Eric Schickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 2002.
- Hattam, Victoria. 2007. *In the Shadow of Race: Jews, Latinos and Immigrant Politics in the United States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Honig, Bonnie. 2001. *Democracy and the Foreigner*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Shachar, Ayelet. 2009. *The Birthright Lottery: Citizenship and Global Inequality*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Spiro, Peter. 2008. *Beyond Citizenship: American Identity after Globalization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stevens, Jaqueline. 2010 *States without Nations: Citizenship for Mortals*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Wong, Cara. 2010. *Boundaries of Obligation in American Politics: Geographic, National and Racial Communities*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

1. January 23 Introduction

2. January 30 The Problem of Group Identities

Clifford, James. 1988. "Identity in Mashpee" in James Clifford ed. *The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth Century Ethnography, Literature, and Art*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. pp. 277-348.

Calhoun, Craig. 1991. "The Problem of Identity in Collective Action." In Joan Huber ed. *Macro-Micro Linkages in Sociology*. London: Sage Publications: 51-75.

Connor, Walker. 1978. "A Nation Is a Nation, Is a State, Is an Ethnic Group is a..." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 1:4 pp. 377-400.

Recommended:

Isaacs, Harold. 1989. *Idols of the Tribe: Group Identity and Political Change*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 39-219.

Moe, Terry M.. 1980, *The Organization of Interests: Incentives and the Internal Dynamics of Political Interest Groups* (Chicago: University of Chicago. Introduction, ch 1-3 and 5.

Olson, Mancur, *The Logic of Collective Action* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1965) pp. 1-65, 111-162.

3. February 6 The Social Construction of Identity

Barth, Frederik. 1969. *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries*. Waveland Press. introduction, pp. 1-38.

Hobsbawm, Eric. 1992. *The Invention of Tradition*. London: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-14.

Patterson, Orlando. 1975. "Context and Choice in Ethnic Allegiance: A Theoretical Framework and Caribbean Case Study." In Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan eds. *Ethnicity: Theory and Experience*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 305-349.

Brubaker, Rogers. 2004. "Ethnicity Without Groups," in *Ethnicity Without Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. pp. 7-27.

Brubaker, Rogers and Frederick Cooper. 2004. "Beyond Identity," in *Ethnicity Without Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 28-63.

Recommended:

Sahlins, Peter. 1989. *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction, ch. 4, 7, 8.

- Thoits, Peggy and Lauren Virshup. 1997. "Me's and We's: Forms and Functions of Social Identities" in Richard Ashmore and Lee Jussim eds. *Self and Identity: Fundamental Issues*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 106-133.
- Volkan, Vamik. 1999. *Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism*. New York: Westview Press.
- Yancey, William et al. 1976. "Emergent Ethnicity: A Review and Reformulation," *American Sociological Review* 41:3 June pp. 391-403.

4. February 13 **Situational and Multiple Identities**

- Tajfel, Henri. 1981. *Human Groups and Social Categories: Studies in Social Psychology*. London: Cambridge University Press. Selections, pp. 228-343.
- Deaux, Kay. 1991. "Social Identities: Thoughts on Structure and Change" in Rebecca Curtis ed. *The Relational Self: Theoretical Convergences in Psychoanalysis and Social Psychology*. New York: Guilford Press. Pp. 77-93.
- Okamura, John. 1981. "Situational Identity" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 4:4 October pp. 452-465.
- Waters, Mary. 1998. "Multiple Ethnic Identity Choices" In Wendy F. Katkin, Ned Landsman and Andrea Tyree eds. *Beyond Pluralism: The Conception of Groups and Group Identities in America*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Pp. 28-46.

Recommended:

- Waters, Mary. 1990. *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Waters, Mary. 2001. *Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities*. New York: Russell Sage/Harvard University Press.

5. February 20 **Nationalisms**

- Smith, Anthony. *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*. New York: Basil Blackwell. Pp. 1-18 and 129-275 (skim)
- Gellner, Ernst. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pp. 53-87.
- Hobsbawm, E.J. 1999. *Nations and Nationalism since 1780: Programme, Myth and Reality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 14-100.

Recommended:

- Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso.
- Brubaker, Rogers. 1996. *Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe*. London: Cambridge University Press.

- Hobsbawm, Eric. 1992. *Nations and Nationalism since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality*, 3rd ed. London: Cambridge University Press.
- Smith, Anthony. 1993. *National Identity: Ethnonationalism in Comparative Perspective*. Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press.
- Smith, Anthony. 2012. "Nationalism and the Historians," in Gopal Balakrishnan ed. *Mapping the Nation*. London: Verso. Pp. 175-197.

6. February 27 Boundaries of the Nation

- Honig, Bonnie. 2001. *Democracy and the Foreigner*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Read all.***

7. March 6 Boundary Crossing: Assimilation

- Alba, Richard, and Victor Nee. "Rethinking Assimilation" and "Assimilation Theory, Old and New," in *Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 1-66.
- Brubaker, Rogers. 2004. "Return of Assimilation," *Ethnicity Without Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 116-131.

8. March 13 Boundaries of the Nation II

- Wong, Cara. 2010. *Boundaries of Obligation in American Politics: Geographic, National and Racial Communities*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Read all.***

March 20 ** Spring Break**

9. March 27 Questioning Group Identity

- Beltrán, Cristina. 2010. *The Trouble with Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Read all; skim ch. 1.***

10. April 3 Questioning Group Identity II

- Hattam, Victoria. 2007. *In the Shadow of Race: Jews, Latinos and Immigrant Politics in the United States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Read all, except ch. 6.***

11. April 10 Identity by Choice?

Green, Donald, Brad Palmquist and Eric Schickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 2002.

Read all; skim ch. 4,5 and 7.

12. April 17 Contesting Citizenship I

Shachar, Ayelet. 2009. *The Birthright Lottery: Citizenship and Global Inequality*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Read all.

13. April 24 Contesting Citizenship II

Stevens, Jaqueline. 2010 *States without Nations: Citizenship for Mortals*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Read ch. 1 2 and 8

Young, Iris Marion. 1994. "Policy and Group Difference: A Critique of the Ideal of Universal Citizenship," in Ronald Beiner ed. *Theorizing Citizenship*. Albany: State University of New York Press. Pp. 175-207.

14. May 1 Transnational Citizenship

Spiro, Peter. 2008. *Beyond Citizenship: American Identity after Globalization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Read all.

Recommended:

Basch, Linda et al. *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments, and Deterritorialized Nation-States*. London: Gordon and Breach.

Bosniak, Linda. "Citizenship Denationalized."

Smith, Michael Peter and Luis Guarnizo eds. 1998. *Transnationalism from Below*. New York: Transaction Publishers.