

Washington University
Department of Political Science

Topics in Politics: Conflict
L32 5121

Spring 2013

Sunita Parikh
Office Hours: 11-12 Tu or by appt.

239 Seigle Hall
saparikh@artsci.wustl.edu

This course covers past and contemporary debates in the social science literature on political conflict, including ethnic, nationalist, and economic bases of conflict. The first part of the course will concentrate on theoretical approaches to the topic, and the second part will focus on specific substantive types of conflict and illustrative cases.

There are three sets of requirements for the course. First, class attendance and participation are mandatory. You may miss one class without explanation, but beyond that absences must be cleared with me or you will be penalized. This is because the class is run as a seminar and participation is crucial for the class to work well. Second, you will be asked to write two literature review papers of 5-7 pages. You may pick the readings from any week, supplement them with a handful of other readings, and then critique the set. Third, you will be asked to write a 7-10 page prospectus for a study of a specific instance of collective action/conflict. You will select a case, find empirical materials on it, locate it within the appropriate literature, and discuss how you would collect and analyze the data.

Many of the readings are available on JSTOR, and I will make available those that are not on ERes. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available on JSTOR.

January 15: **Introductory meeting**

January 22: **Approaches to Collective Action**

*Ted Gurr, "A Causal Model of Civil Strife: A Comparative Analysis Using New Indices." American Political Science Review 62(4):1104-1124 (1968).

Tilly, From Mobilization to Revolution, ch. 3, 4.

* Oliver et al., "A Theory of the Critical Mass. I ..." American Journal of Sociology, 91 (3):522-556 (1985).

January 29: **Models of Collective Action I**

- *Mark Granovetter, "Threshold Models of Collective Behavior," American Journal of Sociology 83 (6): 1420-1443 (1978).
- Thomas Schelling, Macromotives and Microbehavior, ch. 3.
- *Lohmann, "The Dynamics of Informational Cascades ..." World Politics 47 (1): 42-101 (1994)

February 5: **Models of Collective Action II**

- Cameron and Parikh, "Riot Games: A Theory of Riots and Mass Political Violence" (with Charles Cameron). 1999. Wallis Institute of Political Economy Working Paper (University of Rochester).
- * Myers, Daniel J. "The Diffusion of Collective Violence: Infectiousness, Susceptibility, and Mass Media Networks" American Journal of Sociology 106:1, pp. 173-208 (2000)
- *Olzak, "Analysis of Events in the Study of Collective Action," Annual Review of Sociology, 15: 119-141 (1989)

February 12: **Models of Collective Action III**

- Goodwin et al., Passionate Politics, Introduction
- Wood, "The Emotional Benefits of Insurgency in El Salvador," in Passionate Politics, pp.267-81.
- Roger Peterson, Understanding Ethnic Violence, ch. 1-4.
- Chris Claassen, Job Market Paper

February 19: **The Crowd and Mob Violence**

- LeBon, The Crowd, ch. 2, 3
- Shoemaker, The London Mob, ch. 5, 6
- Buford, Among the Thugs, chapters on Turin, Manchester, Bury St. Edmunds

February 26: **NO CLASS**

*****SPRING BREAK*****

March 11: **Socioeconomic Conflict I**

- *Snyder and Tilly, "Hardship and Collective Violence in France, 1830 to 1960," American Sociological Review, 37 (5): 520-532 (1972)
- Rude and Hobsbawm, Captain Swing, ch. 4, 9-12
- *Snyder and Kelly, "Industrial Violence in Italy, 1878-1903," American Journal of Sociology 82 (1): 131-162 (1976)

March 18: **Socioeconomic Conflict II**

- Scott, The Moral Economy of the Peasant, ch. 1, 2, 7.
- Popkin, The Rational Peasant, ch. 1, 2, 6

March 25: **Ethnic Conflict I**

- Hardin, One For All, ch. 6
- Kuran, "Ethnic Dissimilation" in Lake and Rothchild, eds., The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict
- Fearon, "Commitment Problems and the Spread of Ethnic Conflict," in Lake and Rothchild

April 1: **Ethnic Conflict II**

- *Sambanis, "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?" Journal of Conflict Resolution 45(4):259-282 (2001).
- *Hechter, "The Persistence of Regionalism in the British Isles, 1885-1966," American Journal of Sociology, 79 (2): 319-342 (1973)
- *Laitin, "The Tower of Babel as a Coordination Game: Political Linguistics in Ghana," American Political Science Review, 88 (3) 622-634 (1994)

April 8: **Nationalist Conflict**

- Connor, Ethnonationalism, ch. 4, 6, 8
- Brubaker, Nationalism Reframed, ch.1 6
- Keller, "Transnational Ethnic Conflict in Africa," in Lake and Rothchild

April 15: **Ethnic Riots**

Wilkinson, Votes and Violence, ch. 1, 6
Horowitz, The Deadly Ethnic Riot, ch. 9, 13
Brass, Theft of an Idol, ch. 1, 3

April 22: **Race Riots**

Rudwick, Riot at East St. Louis, July 2, 1917, ch. 1-5
Shogan and Craig, The Detroit Race Riot, ch. 2-6
Man, "Labor Competition and the New York Draft Riots of 1863," Journal of Negro History, 36 (4): 375-405 (1951)