

INTL 1440 (Fall 2014): Ethnicity and Inequality in Global Perspective (TU, TH 1:00-2:20pm)

Instructors: Dr Patricia Agupusi (post-doctoral Fellow, Watson Institute) and Professor Glenn C. Loury (Professor of Economics and Faculty Fellow, Watson Institute)

Course Syllabus

Overview

This interdisciplinary lecture course draws on literature in sociology, politics, economics, international relations, and development studies to critically examine the institutions, beliefs and practices that engender ethnic inequality throughout the world. Students will gain an understanding of how ethnicity, identity and religion interact with the institutions of modern societies to produce sustained social and economic disparities along group lines. They will also learn about how ethnic inequality within countries can translate into global threats.

The course, taught jointly by Prof. Loury and Dr. Agupusi, consists of two parts: (i) theoretical lectures on key texts which examine methodological issues that naturally arise in the study of ethnic inequality; and (ii) empirical case studies focused on ethnic inequality in specific countries. The interdisciplinary character of the course is reflected in the fact that Professor Loury is a quantitative social scientist while Dr. Agupusi offers qualitative expertise in development studies with particular emphasis on the global south. Loury will take responsibility for the theoretical lectures; Agupusi will lead exploration of case studies. Both will participate fully in class discussions. This collaboration will equip students with a rigorous intellectual framework for exploring ethnic inequality in such countries as Nigeria, Rwanda, Northern Ireland, India, Colombia, the USA, Brazil, Israel/Palestine, South Africa, and Sudan.

Intellectual Framework for the Course

This area of study is vast. Ethnic inequalities are found in virtually every country, where they have constituted a basis of division and conflict for centuries. Our approach to this vast subject operates along two dimensions. (1) We identify key thematic questions concerning the origins of ethnic/racial inequality, the manner of its social reproduction, and the policy responses it has called forth. (2) We then develop a theoretical framework for answering these questions which is used to examine a range of empirical cases.

Requirements

Students should do the reading, of course, and be prepared to engage in a vigorous class discussion of the texts. To encourage such preparation, we will require that students post a brief comment expressing their reactions to readings on our Canvas webpage before class.

Grading for this course will be based on the students' performance on:

- a. Three short (3-4 pages) reflective pieces written in response to the lectures and readings over the course of the first half of the semester - 40%
- b. A detailed outline and then a first draft of the final research paper, due midway through the second half of the semester -10%
- c. Class participation, including a presentation based on final paper – 20%
- d. The final research paper – 30%

Written assignments will be graded A-B-C [A=excellent, B=good, C=needs improvement].

The final research paper of 10-12 pages, will take an in-depth look at a specific case study and/or thematic question.

Schedule of Assignments:

Response assignment 1: given 9/16 due on 9/23;
Response assignment 2: given 10/7 due on 10/14;
Response assignment 3: given 10/28 due on 11/4.
Final paper first draft: due on 11/25;
Final paper completed version: due on Dec 16th.

Schedule of Topics

The course can be usefully divided into two parts: (1) the six weeks prior to fall break during when we discuss theoretical/conceptual frameworks; and (2) the six weeks prior to Thanksgiving break when we apply these frameworks to a range of cases. Time will also be set aside at the end for reflection. The schedule below specifies lecture topics and readings for each week of the semester:

Introduction

Week 1 (9/4): Ethnic Identity in the Modern World
Reading: Harold Isaacs, *Idols of the Tribe* (all)

Theory

Week 2 (9/9 & 9/11): Theories of group inequality (Economics)
Reading: Glenn Loury, *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality* (all)

Week 3 (9/16 & 9/18): Theories of group inequality (Sociology)
Reading: Charles Tilly, *Durable Inequality* (Intro. and chps. 1-6)

Week 4 (9/23 & 9/25): Identity and Its Discontent
Reading: (a) Rogers Brubaker, *Ethnicity without Groups* (Intro and chps. 1, 2, 4)
(b) Amartya Sen, *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny* (chps. 1-3, 5)

Big Books

Week 5 (9/30 & 10/2): Group Inequality and the State (US, Brazil and South Africa)
Reading: Anthony Marx, *Making Race and Nation* (all)

Week 6 (10/7 & 10/9): Partitions: The Construction of National Identities in South Asia
Reading: Vazira Zamindar, *The Long Partition* (Intro., chps. 1-4)

Week 7 (10/14 & 10/16) Institutions Colonial Legacies and Group Inequality
Reading: D. Acemoglu and J. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail* (preface and chps. 1-4)

Case Studies

Week 8 (10/21 & 10/23): Ethnicity, Inequality and Conflict in Nigeria

Reading: U. Ukiwo, "On the Study of Ethnicity in Nigeria". *Oxford Development Studies* (Vol. 33, Issue 1, 2005)

Week 9 (10/28 & 10/30): Ethnic Inequality in Europe: The Cases of France and Britain

Reading: (a) David McCrone, Who do you say you are? "Making sense of national identities in modern Britain" *Ethnicities*, Sep. 2002 (vol. 2, no. 3), 301-320

(b) Patrick Simon, "The Choice of Ignorance: The Debate on Ethnic and Racial Statistics in France" *French Politics, Culture & Society* (Vol. 26, No. 1), Spring 2008

Week 10 (11/4 & 11/6) Ethnicity, Inequality and Conflict in Malaysia

Reading: (a) Maznah Mohamad (2005), "Ethnicity and Inequality in Malaysia" *Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity, CRISE*

(b) Shamsul A. B. (2001) "A History of an Identity, an Identity of a History: The Idea and Practice of 'Malayness' in Malaysia Reconsidered", *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 32 (3), pp. 355-366

Week 11 (11/11 & 11/13): Ethnicity and Inequality in Colombia

Reading: (a) Tianna S. Paschel "The Right to Difference: Explaining Colombia's Shift from Color-Blindness to the Law of Black Communities," *American Journal of Sociology*, 116:3

(b) Tianna S. Paschel, "'The Beautiful Faces of my Black People': race, ethnicity and the politics of Colombia's 2005 census," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 36:10 (May 2013)

(c) Escobar, Arturo. 2003. "Displacement, Development, and Modernity in the Colombian Pacific." *International Social Science Journal* 55:157-67.

Week 12 (11/18 & 11/20) Ethnicity, Inequality and Conflict in Israel-Palestine

Readings: To Be Announced

Public Policies and Transition Problems (Core readings TBA)

Week 13 (11/25): The Problem of Self-Censorship

Reading: Glenn Loury, "Self-Censorship in Public Discourse: A Theory of Political Correctness and Related Phenomena," *Rationality and Society* (1994)

Week 14 (12/2 & 12/4): Reservation Policies, Affirmative action and Empowerment

Readings: To Be Announced

Core readings

Books

1. Glenn C. Loury. *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality* (W.E.B. Du Bois Lectures)' Harvard Press 2003
2. Charles Tilly. *Durable Inequality*. University of California Press Berkeley 1999
3. Amartya Sen. *Identity and Violence: the Illusion of Destiny*. W.W Norton and Company 2006

4. Harold R. Isaacs. *Idols of Tribe: Group Inequality and Political Change*. Harvard University Press 1989
5. Rogers Brubaker. *Ethnicity without Groups*. Harvard University Press 2004
6. Anthony W. Marx. *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of South Africa, the United States, and Brazil*. Cambridge University Press 1998
7. Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson. *Why Nations Fail: The origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*. Crown Publishers 2012
8. Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar. *The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia: Refugees, Boundaries, Histories*. Columbia Univ. Press 2007
9. Jok Madut Jok, *Sudan: Race, Religion, and Violence (Short Histories)*. One world Publishers 2007
10. Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*. Princeton University Press
11. Paulo Freire *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* Penguin Books, 1996

Articles

1. Ukoha Ukiwo (2005) "On the Study of Ethnicity in Nigeria". Oxford Development Studies Volume 33, Issue 1, 2005
2. David McCrone, Who do you say you are? "Making sense of national identities in modern Britain" *Ethnicities* September 2002 vol. 2 no. 3 301-320
3. Tianna S. Paschel "The Right to Difference: Explaining Colombia's Shift from Color-Blindness to the Law of Black Communities," *American Journal of Sociology*, 116:3
4. Escobar, Arturo. 2003. "Displacement, Development, and Modernity in the Colombian Pacific." *International Social Science Journal* 55:157-67.
5. Maznah Mohamad (2005) "Ethnicity and Inequality in Malaysia: A Retrospect and a Rethinking" Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity, CRISE
6. Shamsul A. B. (2001) "A History of an Identity, an Identity of a History: The Idea and Practice of 'Malayness' in Malaysia Reconsidered" *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 32 (3), pp. 355-366

(Additional supplemental readings will be announced and posted as the course progresses)