

William Wittels  
[William.Wittels@gmail.com](mailto:William.Wittels@gmail.com)  
SoSe 2009, course 53046  
Universitätsstr. 3b, 201  
Tuesdays from 14:00 to 16:00  
Moodle: Pol\_Id 53046 HumboldtDuke

## **Power and Identity: Empirical and normative considerations of politics in divided societies.**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

- In ethnically divided societies, the way in which sub-groups are defined has huge ramifications for politics. What does it mean to be in ‘the Minority’ or ‘the Majority’? And how do our various understandings of those concepts determine various approaches to politics? This course will survey empirical and normative explorations of the politics of identity. In addition to the concept of ethnic ‘identity’ itself, we will explore empirical and normative approaches to the effect of power on identity itself, ethnic and religious violence, repression along identity lines, and group mobilization. Where possible, we will tie the literature to the German and American experiences.

### WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- Students are expected to complete a seminar paper (3500 – 4000 words), the topic for which will be developed in conjunction with the instructor.
- For parts 2-6 of the course, students are expected to compose short response essays (300-500 words per essay, 5 essays in total). In each response essay, students should outline a question or hypothesis that they feel has not been addressed by the literature and defend the intellectual value of that question or hypothesis. Ideally, the response essays will give students an opportunity to develop questions and ideas for the seminar paper.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Attendance is mandatory. Students may take two unexcused absences. Any additional unexcused absences will adversely affect final grades.

### OUTLINE OF SESSIONS

- 1. Introductory Session – Course Goals & Expectations**
- 2. Part 1 – The Concept of Ethnicity**

- I. Session 2 - Empirical Considerations
  - Hale, Henry E. 2004. "Explaining Ethnicity". *Comparative Political Studies*. 37 (4): 458-485.
  - Chandra, K. 2006. "What is Ethnic Identity and Does It Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9: 397-424.
- II. Session 3 - Normative Considerations
  - Connolly, William E. 1991. *Identity/difference: democratic negotiations of political paradox*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press. Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1: xiii-xxx, 1-35.

### 3. Part 2 Power and Identity

- I. Session 4 Empirical Considerations
  - Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2003. *Insurgent collective action and civil war in El Salvador*. Cambridge studies in comparative politics. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, Chapter 8: 1-31, 226-257.
- II. Session 5 Normative Considerations
  - Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich, Arnold V. Miller, and J. N. Findlay. 1977. *Phenomenology of spirit*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 'Lord and Bondsman' 111-119
  - Du Bois, W. E. B., and Donald B. Gibson. 1996. *The souls of Black folk*. Penguin twentieth-century classics. New York, N.Y., U.S.A.: Penguin Books. 'Forthough' and Of our Spiritual Strivings' 1-13.

### 4. Part 3 Ethnic Violence

- I. Session 6 Empirical Considerations
  - Petersen, Roger Dale. 2002. *Understanding ethnic violence: fear, hatred, and resentment in twentieth-century Eastern Europe*. Cambridge studies in comparative politics. Cambridge [England]: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2-4: 17-84.
- II. Session 7 Normative Considerations
  - Young, Iris Marion. 1990. *Justice and the politics of difference*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Chapter 2: 39-65
  - Sen, Amartya "Violence in Identity" in Karawān, Ibrāhīm, Wayne McCormack, and Stephen E. Reynolds. 2009. *Values and violence intangible aspects of terrorism*. Dordrecht: Springer. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4020-8660-1> P. 3-13

**5. Part 4 Ethnic Violence A case study: Democracy and Violence in India**

**I. Session 8 Empirical Considerations**

- Wilkinson, Steven. 2000. Party Fractionalization and Ethnic Violence in India. P. 1-29

**Normative Considerations**

- Nussbaum, Martha. 2008. "The Clash Within: Democracy and the Hindu Right". Journal of Human Development. 9 (3): 357-375.
- Paper Topics Due

**6. Part 5 Group Power(lessness)**

**I. Session 9 Empirical Considerations**

- TBD

**II. Session 10 Normative Considerations**

- Lukes, Steven. 1974. Power: a radical view. London: Macmillan. Introduction, Chapter 1: 3-58

**7. Part 6 - Colonization & Democracy**

**I. Session 11 An Historical Interloper**

- Tocqueville, Alexis de, Harvey Claflin Mansfield, and Delba Winthrop. 2000. Democracy in America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Book I, Part II, Chapter 10: 302-396

**8. Research Roundtable & Concluding Thoughts**

**I. Session 12 No reading. Come prepared to discuss your seminar papers!**