

Course Manual

Comparative Politics: Sub-State Conflict

Course Catalogue Number

7324E204IY

Credits

9 EC

Entry requirements

Admission to the master Political Science, track Political Economy or track International Relations.

Compulsory knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites for the course. However, familiarity with comparative politics and research methods (namely, quantitative methods) would be helpful.

If you are unfamiliar with some concepts that will be discussed in class, do not be afraid to ask questions!

Instruction language

English

Time Periods and Locations

Academic year 2018/2019

Semester 1, Blocks 2-3.

Wednesdays: 11:00-13:00 REC B1.01

Friday: 9:00-11:00 REC B2.03

Lecturer

Dr. Mike Medeiros

Office: Nieuwe Achtergracht 166, Room B10.05

Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail: m.medeiros@uva.nl

Website: <http://www.uva.nl/en/profile/m/e/m.medeiros/m.medeiros.html>

Course objectives

Students will develop an:

1. in-depth knowledge of sub-state conflicts as well as the theories, concepts and sociopolitical issues that are associated with these movements.
2. ability to think critically about minority politics and deliberate on the sociopolitical factors (economic, cultural, institutional, etc.) that influence minorities' intergroup attitudes and their attachment to their country.
3. ability to synthesize important concepts and debates.
4. ability to formulate well-organized arguments, supported by scholarly evidence.

Course content

Intrastate conflicts have been prominent in the news recently, with the referendums in Scotland, Kurdistan and Catalonia as well as the violence in Cameroon and the Philippines being well-known examples. Such movements highlight tensions with majority groups and with the central governments. Yet, these movements have been forced to evolve due to the increasing globalization and interconnection of international relations as well as to growing cultural diversity.

The course will present theories and concepts from comparative politics as a way of understanding and interpreting past and current events with regard to sub-state conflicts.

Issues of sub-state conflicts go beyond secessionism; they also touch upon questions of governance, values, and diversity. Minority politics have become an increasingly salient ‘challenge’ to the traditional nation-state. Additionally, the increasing diversity in Western societies caused by migration also underscores cultural and economic concerns that national minorities must deal with. As a result, the course will delve into the following questions:

- What is “sub-state” nationalism and how is it different from other forms of nationalism?
- How do movements for minority rights get started?
- How does the existing political process respond to or represent these voices?
- How are sub-state nationalist movements similar/different from each other?
- How do sub-state nationalist movements react to immigration?
- How can neighbouring countries and/or kin groups in foreign countries sway minorities’ relationship with their central government?
- How can the economic and political integration of countries (for example, through the European Union) influence intra-state tensions?
- Do economic crises have a positive or negative impact on secessionist movements?
- Can decentralization (for example, federalism) help address the grievances of national minorities?
- Does adopting a violent strategy pay off?

The course goes beyond case-specific knowledge by linking sub-state conflicts to various political themes and concepts.

The course will appeal to students that are interested in exploring intergroup relations, social diversity, centre-periphery dynamics and international relations.

Teaching methods/learning formats

The course will be taught in the form of a seminar. The sessions will primarily consist of plenary discussions among the students. Therefore, students are expected to prepare for each class by 1) critically reading the assigned literature and 2) formulating questions and topics that they would like to introduce to the discussions.

Students will receive written feedback on their two assignments, their in-class presentation and their paper.

Manner & Form of Assessment and Assessment Requirements & Criteria

Case Studies (2 x 20%); Recorded Presentation (10%); a Term Paper (35 %); and Participation (15%).

The student will produce two short (5 double-spaced pages, approximately 1,500 words) case studies of approved sub-state conflicts. The first assignment must be on a case from a developed country and be submitted by **21 November**, and the second assignment must explore a case from a developing country and be submitted by **7 December**. The student must succinctly describe the case (e.g., who is the group behind the movement, their grievances, their demands, relations with the central state and other groups in the country, the intensity of the conflict etc.) and link it to the themes that will be discussed in this course. Each assignment must be submitted via Turnitin on Canvas. No late assignments will be accepted. Further details will be provided in class.

The recorded presentation will be based on the case studies that the student will produce. They will be expected to summarize their cases and to highlight similarities and differences between them. The presentation should be about 10 minutes. The presentation must be submitted **by 21 December** via email to m.medeiros@uva.nl. Further details will be provided in class.

The student will also produce a term paper on a topic of their choice that will be used to deepen their knowledge of the course material. It will consist of a synthesis of 15 double-spaced pages (approximately 4,500 words) of important studies on a research question based on one of the themes explored in the course. In order to get useful feedback, the student must present, **by 30 November**, a preliminary work plan that will count for 5% of the term paper. The term paper must be submitted via Turnitin on Canvas **by 15 January at noon**. More details will be provided in class.

Finally, the student's participation will be evaluated in each session based on class presence as well as the quality of their comments and questions.

Rules regarding Fraud and Plagiarism

The provisions of the Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students apply in full. Access this regulation at <http://www.student.uva.nl/preventfraud-plagiarism>. Plagiarism is presenting someone else's ideas as your own. Copying, paraphrasing or translating of text needs to be referenced according to academic standards. Plagiarism will be sanctioned severely.

Literature

Extensive use will be made of online journal resources via the digital library. If not, the readings are available via Canvas or through provided webpage links.

Schedule

31 October Course Presentation

Keating, M. 1996. *Nations against the State*, Chapter 1.

2 November Understanding (Sub-State) Nationalism

Anderson, B. 2006. *Imagined Communities*, Chapter 3.

Connor, W. 1990. "When is a Nation?" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 13(1): 92-103.

Yavuz, M. H. 2001. "Five Stages of the Construction of Kurdish Nationalism in Turkey." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 7(3): 1-24.

7 November *****Selection of Cases*****

The Role of Parties

Hepburn, E. & D. Hough. 2012. "Regionalist Parties and the Mobilization of Territorial Difference in Germany." *Government and Opposition* 47: 74-96.

Giordano, B. 2000. "Italian Regionalism or 'Padanian' Nationalism – The Political Project of the Lega Nord in Italian politics." *Political Geography*, 19(4), 445-471.

Barrio, A. & J. Rodríguez-Teruel. 2017. "Reducing the Gap between Leaders and Voters? Elite Polarization, Outbidding Competition, and the Rise of Secessionism in Catalonia." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40(10): 1776-1794.

9 November Supporting Self-Determination

Álvarez Pereira, B., M. Portos, & J. Vourdas. 2017. "Waving Goodbye? The Determinants of Autonomism and Secessionism in Western Europe." *Regional Studies*: 1-15.

Sorens, J. 2008. "Regionalists against Secession: The Political Economy of Territory in Advanced Democracies." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 14(3): 325-360.

Remond A. 2018. "Corsican Nationalists Test French Flexibility". Centre on Constitutional Change. <https://www.centreonconstitutionalchange.ac.uk/blog/corsican-nationalists-test-french-flexibility>.

14 November Towards Secessionism

Ayres, R. W. & S. Saideman. 2000. "Is Separatism as Contagious as the Common Cold or as Cancer? Testing International and Domestic Explanations." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 6(3): 91-113.

Sarigil, Z., & E. Karakoc. 2016. "Who Supports Secession? The Determinants of Secessionist Attitudes Among Turkey's Kurds." *Nations and Nationalism* 22(2): 325-346.

Durand, C. "Polls for the 1995 Quebec and 2014 Scotland Referendums". Figures available on Canvas. For more information, see: <http://ahlessondages.blogspot.com/>.

16 November The Role of Resources

Birmir, J. K. 2007. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*, Chapter 6.

Tadjoeddin, M. Z. 2011. "The Economic Origins of Indonesia's Secessionist Conflicts." *Civil Wars* 13(3): 312-332.

Mähler, A., & J. H. Pierskalla. 2015. "Indigenous Identity, Natural Resources, and Contentious Politics in Bolivia: A Disaggregated Conflict Analysis, 2000-2011." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(3): 301-332.

21 November *****Deadline First Assignment*****

Is it the Economy?

Muñoz, J. & R. Tormos. 2015. "Economic Expectations and Support for Secession in Catalonia: Between Causality and Rationalization." *European Political Science Review* 7: 315-341.

Duchesne, E., Eagles, M. & S. Erfle. 2003. "Constituency Homogeneity, Economic Risk and Support for Quebec Sovereignty: A Research Note." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 36(3): 643-656.

Lecours, A. & D. Béland. 2018. From Secessionism to Regionalism: The Changing Nature of Territorial Politics in Western Australia. *Regional & Federal Studies*. Online First.

23 November Cultural Differences

Medeiros, M. 2017. "The Language of Conflict: The Relationship between Linguistic Vitality and Conflict Intensity." *Ethnicities* 17(6): 627-645.

Cohen, L. J. 1997. "Prelates and Politicians in Bosnia: The Role of Religion in Nationalist Mobilisation." *Nationalities Papers* 25: 481-499.

Quinn, N. 2018. "Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon was Decades in the Making". *Council on Foreign Relations*. <https://www.cfr.org/blog/anglophone-crisis-cameroon-was-decades-making>.

28 November Immigration

Kymlicka, W. 2001. "Immigrant Integration and Minority Nationalism." In M. Keating & J. McGarry (eds.), *Minority Nationalism and the Changing International Order*.

Bilodeau, A., L. Turgeon, & E. Karakoç. 2012. "Small Worlds of Diversity: Views toward Immigration and Racial Minorities in Canadian Provinces." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 45 (3): 579-605.

Jeram, S. 2013. "Immigrants and the Basque Nation: Diversity as a New Marker of Identity." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 36(11): 1770-1788.

30 November *****Deadline Outline*****

The Ethnic Factor

Cederman, L. E., Girardin, L. & K. S. Gleditsch. 2009. "Ethnonationalist Triads: Assessing the Influence of Kin Groups on Civil Wars." *World Politics* 61(3): 403-437.

Medeiros, M. "Beyond the Label: Exploring the Role of Ethnicity in the Kosovo Conflict". Available on Canvas.

5 December The Quebec and Catalan Cases

Breaking Point. 2005. Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fl7lOundk4Y>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnF46gRSPig>

Two Catalonias. 2018. <https://www.netflix.com/nl-en/title/80992039>

7 December *****Deadline Second Assignment*****

Decentralization

Brancati, D. 2006. "Decentralization: Fueling the Fire or Dampening the Flames of Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism?" *International Organization* 60(3): 651-685.

Lublin, D. 2012. "Dispersing Authority or Deepening Divisions? Decentralization and Ethnoregional Party Success." *The Journal of Politics* 74(4): 1079-1093.

Lecours, A. 2014. "The Politics of Diversity Treatment in Contemporary Nepal: From Difference Elimination to Difference Management?" *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 20(4): 373-392.

12 December Globalism

Martin, P. 1995 "When Nationalism Meets Continentalism: The Politics of Free Trade in Quebec." *Regional & Federal Studies* 51(1): 1-27.

Muro, D. & M. C. Vlaskamp. 2016. "How do Prospects of EU Membership Influence Support for Secession? A Survey Experiment in Catalonia and Scotland." *West European Politics* 39: 1115-1138.

International Crisis Group. 2006. "Somaliland: Time for African Union Leadership." - *Africa Report* (110).

14 December Worth the Risk?

Griffiths, Ryan D., & Louis M. Wasser. 2018. "Does Violent Secessionism Work?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Online first.

Theobald, Anne. 2015. "Successful or Failed Rebellion? The Casamance Conflict from a Framing Perspective." *Civil Wars* 17(2): 181-200.

Ker-Lindsay, James. 2011. "Not such a 'Sui Generis' Case after all: Assessing the ICJ Opinion on Kosovo." *Nationalities Papers* 39(1): 1-11.

19 December Dealing with Division

Michael, M. S. 2007. "The Cyprus Peace Talks: A Critical Appraisal." *Journal of Peace Research* 44: 587-604.

Tannam, E. 2001. "Explaining the Good Friday Agreement: A Learning Process." *Government and Opposition* 36: 493-518.

Lecamwasam, Nipunika O. 2016. "Transitional Justice in Post-war Sri Lanka: Dilemmas and Prospects." *Polity* 7(1): 14-7.

21 December *****Deadline Recorded Presentation*****

15 January *****Deadline Term Paper*****