Conflicts over racial, ethnic and/or national identity continue to dominate headlines in diverse corners of the world. Whether referring to ethnic violence in Bosnia or Sri Lanka, racialized political tensions in Sudan and Fiji, the treatment of Roma (Gypsies) and Muslims in Europe, or the charged debates about immigration policy in the United States, identity remains at the center of politics globally.

The study of “Race, Ethnicity and Nationalism” encompasses a wide variety of social and political phenomena including language, violence, religion, class, gender and colonialism. Drawing upon multiple theoretical and disciplinary approaches, this course explores the related concepts of race, ethnicity and nationalism from a comparative perspective using case studies drawn from around the world and across different time periods. By design, close readings of the course material will be central to doing well in the class as will active participation in the classroom discussion.

The course will be graded on a 20-20-20-20 basis, with three reading responses worth 20% each and a mid-term worth 20%. The remaining 20% will be based on your on-time attendance and participation in the course.

Required Texts (available in the book store):


Other sources:

We will be reading many articles or book chapters that I have not asked you to buy. For these, I will scan a copy of the article and make it available to you as a PDF on Moodle listed by the Author’s first and last name. In addition, I occasionally will send out articles and links via the Moodle email system. Be sure that your Moodle email address is accurate.

Wednesday, January 18: Course Introduction

Monday, January 23:

Zachariah Mampilly
Email: zamampilly@vassar.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00 to 5:00 or by appt. (Rockefeller 408)
Sven Lindqvist. Selection from *Exterminate All the Brutes.*

Wednesday, January 25:

Sven Lindqvist. Selection from *Exterminate All the Brutes.*

Monday, January 30: NO CLASS

**PAPER 1 DUE IN MAILBOX**

Wednesday, February 1:


Monday, February 6:


Richard Nisbett. 2007. “All Brains are the Same Color.”

Wednesday, February 8:


Monday, February 13:


Wednesday, February 15:


Robert F. Worth. “Yemen’s Marginalized Class.”


Monday, February 20:


Wednesday, February 22:


Monday, February 27:


Wednesday, February 29: MIDTERM

Saturday, March 3 to Sunday March 18: SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 19:


Wednesday, March 21: PAPER 2 DUE IN CLASS

Monday, March 26:


Wednesday, March 28:


Monday, April 2:


Wednesday, April 4: NO CLASS

Monday, April 9:

Mahmood Mamdani. 2001. Selection from *When Victims Become Killers*.

Wednesday, April 11:

Mahmood Mamdani. 2001. Selection from *When Victims Become Killers*.

Monday, April 16:


Wednesday, April 18:


Monday, April 23:


Wednesday, April 25:

John and Jean Comaroff. 2009. Selection from Ethnicity, Inc.

Monday, April 30: Final Class—**PAPER 3 DUE IN CLASS**

John and Jean Comaroff. 2009. Selection from Ethnicity, Inc.