



FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BOZEN  
LIBERA UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLZANO  
FREE UNIVERSITY OF BOZEN - BOLZANO

Fakultät für  
Wirtschaftswissenschaften

Facoltà di  
Economia

School of  
Economics and Management

## ***THE POLITICS OF ETHNIC CONFLICT: Course Description***

**TEACHING LANGUAGE:** English; **SEMESTER:** Summer-2012; **PREREQUISITES:** None

**SCIENTIFIC FIELD:** Political Science; **TOTAL LECTURE HOURS:** 36; **CREDIT POINTS:** 6

**LECTURER:** Professor Patricia Springborg, E512c, [patricia.springborg@unibz.it](mailto:patricia.springborg@unibz.it)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is an issue-oriented course which will treat fundamental concepts and methods of Comparative Politics through case studies. Nationalism and ethnicity as causes of political conflict are not new, but they are among the most urgent problems in the politics of modernity.

**LIST OF TOPICS COVERED:** The course will take the case of ethnic conflict to examine the nature and construction of the nation state, the role of social collectivities, collective identity formation, the logic of social movements; institutionalization; state and nation-building; ethnic conflict; failed states and their consequences.

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:** By taking a single, salient issue in comparative politics as its focus, this course facilitates a general understanding of the scope of Political Science as an academic discipline. Focusing on student participation and interactive learning, it is also designed to develop students' analytical and writing skills.

**TEACHING FORMAT:** The course will be conducted in combined lecture/seminar format to permit in-depth analysis. Students are expected to have read the required readings placed on special reserve in the Library in advance and will be required to explore the theoretical issues in written exercises as well as to make class presentations.

**ASSESSMENT:** Attending students: class participation and written assignments. Non-attending students must contact the Course Instructor well in advance in order to design an individual learning process and final assessment.

**REQUIRED READINGS:** Lecture notes will be posted on the Web well in advance of the class, and a detailed syllabus will be handed out in the first class. Because of the topical nature of the course there is no text book, but required readings will be placed on Special Reserve in the University Library and can be downloaded in PDF form.