Political Science 561  
Nationalism and Nation-Building  
State University of New York at Albany  
Fall 2016

Professor Cheng Chen  
Office: Milne Hall 214A  
Phone: 591-8724

Wednesday 11:30 – 3:30  
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30  
E-mail: cchen@albany.edu

Course Description

This course is designed to cover different conceptualizations of “nation” and “nationalism”; interpretations of historical and social developments associated with the building and emergence of nations and nationalist movements, and strategies for locating the study of nationalism in a more general theoretical framework. The course begins with discussions over the essential characteristics of nation and nationalism and the relevance of the problem of identity. It then provides a survey of major scholarly models and theories of nationalism, such as instrumentalist, constructivist, and primordialist views of nationalism. The third part of the course examines the theoretical and historical evolution of nationalism, nationalist movements, and nation-building. Specifically, it explores nationalism’s encounters with major political traditions such as liberalism, communism, and anti-colonialism, and the consequences of these encounters. The fourth part of the course addresses some of the most salient contemporary issues related to the national question, including the effects of globalization and the resurgence of nationalism in the post-Cold War era. The course concludes by situating the study of nationalism and nation-building in broader comparative inquiries of social change. The objectives of this course are to familiarize the student with both classical and recent scholarly debates regarding nationalism and nation-building, and to help the student develop an appreciation for historically-grounded comparative theory-building.

Course Requirements

Your grade in this course will be determined in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-page literature review</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class attendance and active, informed participation are mandatory. Students must complete the assigned readings prior to the seminar meetings. The oral presentations require each student to analyze and report on a number of assigned readings for a given week. There will also be a take-home mid-term essay. In addition, students are required to write a 15-page literature review on a set of relevant reading, but the scope must be finalized in consultation with the instructor. The review paper is due in the last class on Wednesday, December 7. Late papers will result in grade reductions.
Readings


Recommended:


The above books are available at Mary Jane Books. The rest of the readings are available on Blackboard. Those marked with “available on-line” can be retrieved by clicking on “E-Journals” from the Libraries web page and typing in the title of the journal in the search box.

PART I: CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS IN THE STUDY OF NATIONALISM

August 31: Introduction

- Course syllabus

September 7: Nation and Nationalism

- Walker Connor, “A Nation is a Nation, is a State, is an Ethnic Group is a…,” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 1:4 (1978): 377-397 [available on-line]
PART II: MODELS AND THEORIES OF NATIONALISM

September 14: Nationalism and Modernization I: The Developmental Perspective


September 21: Nationalism and Modernization II: The Cultural Perspective


September 28: Nationalism and Modernization III: The Political and Ideological Perspective

October 5: Challenges to the Modernist Paradigm


PART III: TRAJECTORIES OF NATIONALISM AND NATION-BUILDING

October 19: Liberalism and Nationalism I: Early Encounters

- Uday Singh Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire: A Study in Nineteenth-Century British Liberal Thought* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1999), 1-45

October 26: Empire, Colonialism and Nationalism

Postcolonial Africa and Post-Soviet Eurasia in Comparative Perspective

November 2: Communism and Nationalism I: Theoretical Foundation

- Roman Szporluk, *Communism and Nationalism: Karl Marx versus Friedrich List* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988), 1-15

November 9: Communism and Nationalism II: Practice


PART IV: POST-COLD WAR NATIONALISM AND NATION-BUILDING

November 16: Liberalism and Nationalism II: Contemporary Issues

November 30: Post-Communist Nationalism


December 7: The Future of Nationalism