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, Leninism, 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:

Seminar participation 15%
Oral presentations 15%
Take-home midterm 30%
15-page literature review 40%

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 Monday, December 9. 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. They will also be included in a course pack available at Mary Jane. Those marked with “available on-line” can be retrieved by the on-line links provided on the syllabus or by clicking on “Journals - Print and Online” 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 26: Introduction

- Course syllabus

September 9: 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 16: Nationalism and Modernization I: The Developmental Perspective
• Karl Deutsch, Nationalism and Social Communication (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1953), 60-80, 139-160

September 23: Nationalism and Modernization II: The Cultural Perspective


September 30: Nationalism and Modernization III: The Political and Ideological Perspective

• Anthony Giddens, The Nation-State and Violence (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987), 255-293
• Eric Hobsbawm, Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), 14-45
• Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, Empire (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000), 93-113

October 7: Challenges to the Modernist Paradigm

• John A. Armstrong, Nations before Nationalism (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982), 3-11
• Caspar Hirschi, The Origins of Nationalism: An Alternative History from Ancient Rome to Early Modern Germany (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 1-49
PART III: NATIONALISM AND NATION-BUILDING IN HISTORY

October 21: 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 28: Liberalism and Nationalism II: Recent Debates

- Ian S. Lustick, “Liberalism and Nationalism: Can They Be Joined?” *Journal of International Law and Politics* 27:1 (Fall 1994)

November 4: 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 11: Communism and Nationalism II: Practice


November 18: Anti-Colonialism and Nationalism

PART IV: NEW ISSUES OF NATIONALISM AND NATION-BUILDING

November 25: New Theories of Nationalism


December 2: The Future of Nationalism

• Michael Hechter, *Containing Nationalism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 134-159

December 9: Paper due