Course Description

For centuries, nationalism has been a powerful political force. After the end of the Cold War, nationalism once again moved to the fore front of international politics. By taking this course, the students are expected to understand the different conceptualizations of “nation” and “nationalism”; to be able to trace the historical and social developments associated with the building and emergence of nations and nationalist movements; and to examine the complex role of nationalism and nation-building in the contemporary world. The first part of the course is an overview of the major theories of nationalism and nation-building. The second part of the course focuses on the development of nationalism and nation-building in relations to different political traditions and phenomena such as democracy, fascism, communism, anti-colonialism, and globalization. Next, concrete manifestations of contemporary nationalism in Western Europe, Russia and Eastern Europe, Middle East, and the United States will be examined. The course will conclude with the assessment of the prospects for nationalism in today’s changing world.

Course Requirements

After completing this course, students are expected to be able to clearly define “nation” and “nationalism,” to demonstrate familiarity with the broad history of modern nationalism and its interactions with major political traditions, to compare and evaluate the major theories of nations and nationalism, and to use these theories to analyze and explain relevant empirical cases. There will be one in-class midterm exam and one take-home final essay. The date for the midterm exam is listed on the syllabus. The final essay is due on the last day of class – Thursday, May 5, 2016. The final essay is not a research paper and students need only draw on the readings and lectures for this course. Late papers will result in grade reductions. In-class participation will count for 20% of the grade, the midterm 30%, and the final 50%.

It is mandatory that all class members complete the assigned readings prior to the lectures. Class attendance will be taken regularly. Multiple absences without university-approved reasons (see http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicalexcurse.shtml) will result in a reduction of the participation portion of the overall grade. Students are expected to meet all standards of academic integrity. Violation of academic integrity will not be tolerated. For relevant information, see http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html.
Readings


The above book is available at the University Bookstore. The rest of the readings are available on the course’s Blackboard.

PART I: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

January 21: Introduction

- Course syllabus

January 26-28: Concepts of Nation and Nationalism
A. What is a nation?
B. Nationalism and Nation-Building

- Anthony Smith, *Nationalism*, 5-23

February 2-4: The Emergence of Nationalism
A. The Rise of Nationalism
B. The Spread of Nationalism

- Anthony Smith, *Nationalism*, 47-65, 95-128

February 9-11: Types of Nationalism
A. The Ideology of Nationalism
B. Good and Bad Nationalisms

- Anthony Smith, *Nationalism*, 24-46

PART II: NATIONALISM IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

February 16-18: Nationalism and Democracy
A. The Link between Nationalism and Democracy
B. Nationalism and Democratization
• Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Democracy* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), 3-31 (Chapters by Nodia and Fukuyama)
• Jack Snyder, *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2000), 15-42

February 23: Nationalism and Fascism


February 25-March 3: Nationalism and Communism
A. Theoretical Foundation
B. Practice: The Case of the Soviet Union


March 8: Midterm Review

March 10: In-Class Midterm

March 22-24: Nationalism and Anti-Colonialism
A. Nationalism and Colonialism
B. Post-Colonial Legacies


March 29-31: Nationalism and Globalization
A. Nationalist Backlash against Globalization
B. Nationalism in a Globalizing World

• Benjamin Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 269:3 (March 1992)
PART III: CONTEMPORARY CASES

April 5-7: Nationalism in Western Europe
A. The Rise of Far-Right
B. Nationalism and EU


April 12-14: Nationalism in Post-Communist Societies
A. Nationalism in Eastern Europe
B. Russian Nationalism


April 19-21: Nationalism in Middle East
A. The Rise of Religious Nationalism
B. Case Studies


April 26-28: American Nationalism

May 3-5: The Future of Nationalism

- Anthony Smith, *Nationalism*, 129-157
- Final due