Course Description

For centuries, nationalism has been a powerful political force. After the end of the Cold War, nationalism once again moved to the forefront of international politics. This course is designed to cover different conceptualizations of “nation” and “nationalism”; 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, East Asia, 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

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 Thursday, May 7 in the contact office by two o’clock in the afternoon. 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.

Readings


The above books are available at the University Bookstore or Mary Jane downtown. The rest of the readings will be included in a course pack, also available at Mary Jane.
PART I: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

January 22: Introduction

- Course syllabus

January 27-29: Concepts of Nation and Nationalism
A. What is a nation?
B. Nationalism and Nation-Building

- Anthony Smith, Nationalism, 5-20

February 3-5: The Emergence of Nationalism
A. The Rise of Nationalism
B. The Spread of Nationalism

- Anthony Smith, Nationalism, 43-61, 87-119

February 10-12: Types of Nationalism
A. The Ideology of Nationalism
B. Good and Bad Nationalisms

- Anthony Smith, Nationalism, 21-42

PART II: NATIONALISM IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

February 24-26: Nationalism and Democracy
A. The Link between Nationalism and Democracy
B. Nationalism and Democratization

- Diamond and Plattner, Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Democracy, 3-55
- Jack Snyder, From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict (New York: W. W. Norton, 2000), 15-42

March 3: Nationalism and Fascism

March 5-10: Nationalism and Communism
A. Theoretical Foundation
B. Practice: The Case of the Soviet Union


March 12: In-Class Midterm

March 17-19: Nationalism and Anti-Colonialism
A. Nationalism and Colonialism
B. Post-Colonial Legacies

- Diamond and Plattner, *Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Democracy*, 56-85

March 24-26: Nationalism and Globalization
A. Nationalist Backlash against Globalization
B. Nationalism in a Globalizing World


PART III: CONTEMPORARY CASES

March 31-April 2: Nationalism in Western Europe
A. The Rise of Far-Right
B. Nationalism and EU

April 7-14: Nationalism in Post-Communist Societies
A. Russian Nationalism
B. Nationalism in Eastern Europe

- Diamond and Plattner, Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Democracy, 102-135

April 16-21: Nationalism in Middle East
A. The Rise of Religious Nationalism
B. Case Studies


April 23-28: American Nationalism


April 30-May 5: The Future of Nationalism

- Anthony Smith, Nationalism, 120-146
- Review session