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 must be placed in my box by noon, Thursday, May 7, 2009. Late papers might result in grade reductions.
Readings


Recommended:


The above books are available at Mary Jane Books. The rest of the readings will be included in a course pack available also at Mary Jane.

PART I: CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS IN THE STUDY OF NATIONALISM

January 27: Introduction

- Course syllabus

February 3: Nation and Nationalism


PART II: MODELS AND THEORIES OF NATIONALISM

February 10: Nationalism and Modernization I: The Developmental Perspective

February 24: Nationalism and Modernization II: The Cultural Perspective


March 3: Nationalism and Modernization III: The Political and Ideological Perspective


March 10: Challenges to the Modernist Paradigm


PART III: NATIONALISM AND NATION-BUILDING IN HISTORY

March 17: 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
March 24: 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)

March 31: Communism and Nationalism I: Theoretical Foundation

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

April 7: Communism and Nationalism II: Practice


April 14: Anti-Colonialism and Nationalism

PART IV: NEW ISSUES OF NATIONALISM AND NATION-BUILDING

April 21: New Theories of Nationalism


April 28: New Waves of Nationalism


PART V: CONCLUSION

May 5: The Future of Nationalism