

POL300H1F
TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS:
NATIONALISM AND DIVERSITY

TIME/LOCATION:

Mondays/Wednesdays 10am-12pm

Location: Sidney Smith Hall 1069

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

Karlo Basta

Contact: karlo.basta@gmail.com

Office hours: Mondays, 12pm-1pm or by appointment, location to be announced

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Nationalism is one of the most enduring political forces of the modern era as well as one of the most pervasive ones. It legitimizes the modern state and provides the identity basis for democratic politics. At the same time, the homogenizing nature of nationalism has frequently clashed with the reality of ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity that characterizes most societies. This course will explore the often highly conflictual relationship between nationalism and diversity.

The first section of the course will familiarize the students with the key elements of the study of nationalism, such as the major debates about the origins of nationhood, types of nationalism and the emergence of nationalism as a political ideology. In the second section, we will explore the many ways in which the nationalist tendency towards uniformity meets the reality of diversity. In some instances, the product of this interaction has been violent and repressive. In other cases, the conflict between the two has been resolved in highly creative, though often contradictory, ways. Students will have the opportunity to explore the dynamics of nationalist intolerance, including ethnic cleansing and genocide. They will also be exposed to the construction of hybrid identities and other ways in which diverse populations can coexist under the same political system. Finally, we will also examine the post-nationalist and multiple identities, such as those developing in the European Union and other multi-level polities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The goal of this course is twofold. First, it aims to provide the students with a basic understanding of the phenomenon of nationalism and the mainstream approaches employed in its study. Second, by examining different ways for organizing identities, the course will encourage students to think about the creative ways of accommodating and managing ethnic and cultural difference in contemporary societies. The assignments will be designed with these two goals in mind.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation – 20%

- Of the 20%, 10 will be based on class attendance, 5 on participation and 5 on a short newspaper analysis
- You will be expected to select a newspaper or magazine article of your choice dealing with an issue related to nationalism and then write a brief one-page (single-spaced) summary of the central theme and explain how it relates to the issues we have been covering in class.

2. Essay proposal and annotated bibliography – 30% (due in class, May 26th)

- Students will be required to write a two to three page (double-spaced) proposal for a research essay. Essay topics will be provided but the students will be able to select their own, in consultation with the instructor. The proposal will be accompanied by an annotated bibliography which will be based on a minimum of eight sources. The proposal itself will have to outline a tentative research question, suggest a thesis and discuss how the chosen thesis relates to the broader themes of the course.

3. Research essay – 50% (due in class, June 16th)

- The research essay (10-15 double-spaced pages) will require the students to systematically explore the question they have selected for their essay proposal. The late penalty on this and the other assignments will be 2% per day, excluding weekends. Extensions will be granted only for well-documented reasons

READING MATERIALS:

Most readings are available through the University of Toronto Library system on-line. The readings with the double asterisk next to them are not available on-line but have been placed on the course reserve in several copies. Please access them on time. I suggest you do all the copying at the start of the semester, rather than during it.

You are expected to read all materials on the reading list since the class discussions will be based in part on them. You should also have the readings with you in class.

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on Plagiarism at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsept.html>.

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:

disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>.

COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION A – Nations and Nationalism: Concepts and Theories

May 10th – Introduction

May 12th - Nations: modern or ancient, constructed or given?

Required reading:

- Anthony D. Smith. “The Nation: Invented, Imagined, Reconstructed?” *Millennium* Vol. 20, No. 3 (March): 353-368.
- Yael Tamir. 1995. “The Enigma of Nationalism.” *World Politics* 47 (April): 418-40.

May 17th - The rise of nationalism: Territorial state and the need for legitimacy

Required reading:

- Hendrik Spruyt. 2002. “The Origins, Development, and the Possible Decline of the Modern State.” *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 5: 127-49.
- **Eric Hobsbawm. 1990. “Chapter 3: The Government Perspective.” In *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 80-100.

May 19th - Varieties of Nationalism: The civic-ethnic divide

Required reading:

- Tim Nieguth. 1999. “Beyond dichotomy: Concepts of the nation and the distribution of membership.” *Nations and Nationalism* Vol. 5, No. 2 (April): 155-173.
- Andre Lecours. 2000. “Ethnic and Civic Nationalism: Towards a New Dimension.” *Space and Polity* Vol. 4, No.2: 153-165.

SECTION B – Nationalism and Diversity

May 26th - Nationalism and identity complexity: the sources of conflict

Required reading:

- Daniele Conversi. 2008. “ ‘We are all equals!’ Militarism, homogenization and ‘egalitarianism’ in nationalist state-building (1789-1945).” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* Vol. 31, No. 7: 1286-1314.
- Rogers Brubaker. 1995. “Aftermaths of Empire and the unmixing of peoples: historical and comparative perspectives.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* Vol. 18, No. 2 (April): 189-218.

May 31th - Violent outcomes and violent causes of homogeneity

Required reading:

- Michael Mann. 1999. "The Dark Side of Democracy: The Modern Tradition of Ethnic and Political Cleansing." *New Left Review* 235 (May/June): 18-45.
- **Daniele Conversi. 1994. "Violence as an ethnic border: The consequences of a lack of distinctive elements in Croatian, Kurdish and Basque nationalism." In J. Beramendi, R. Maiz and X. Nunez, eds. *Nationalism in Europe, Past and Present*, vol. 1. Santiago de Compostela: Universidade de Santiago de Compostela.

June 2nd - Survival of difference despite nationalism

Required reading:

- Thomas Eriksen. 1992. "Linguistic Hegemony and Minority Resistance." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 29, No. 3 (August): 313-332.
- Nader Entessar. 1989. "The Kurdish mosaic of discord." *Third World Quarterly* Vol. 11, No. 4 (October):83-100.

June 7th - Difference as the basis of national identity

Required reading:

- Peter Wade. 2005. "Rethinking *Mestizaje*: Ideology and Lived Experience." *Journal of Latin American Studies* Vol. 37, No. 2 (May): 239-57.
- Elke Winter. 2007. "Neither 'America' nor 'Quebec': Constructing the Canadian multicultural nation." *Nations and Nationalism* Vol. 13, No. 3 (July): 481-503.

June 9th - Fusion of ethnicities into a common national identity

Required reading:

- Oliver Zimmer. 2004. "'A Unique Fusion of the Natural and the Man-Made': The Trajectory of Swiss Nationalism, 1933-39." *Journal of Contemporary History* Vol. 39, No.1 (January): 5-24.
- Katharine Adeney & Marie Lall. 2005. "Institutional Attempts to Build a 'National' Identity in India: Internal and External Dimensions." *India Review* Vol. 4, Nos. 3-4 (July-October): 258-86.

June 14th - Politics beyond nationalism: past and present

Required reading:

- Karen Barkey. 2005. "Islam and Toleration: Studying the Ottoman Imperial Model." *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* Vol. 19, No. 1-2 (December): 5-19.
- Martin Kohli. 2000. "The Battlegrounds of European Identity." *European Societies* Vol. 2, No. 2: 113-137.

June 16th – Review