Nationalism and Nation-Building

PSC 8388.80, Spring 2019
Tuesday 11:10 - 1:00PM
(1776 G 150)

Harris Mylonas
403 Hall of Government (2115 G St)
E-mail: mylonas@gwu.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 3:40 - 5:40 pm or by appointment

Course Goals and Description
This is a class on nationalism, ethnic conflict, and nation-building. The course is designed to provide you with an understanding of the most prominent explanations of the emergence of nationalism across the world, and the background knowledge and tools with which to evaluate them. We will discuss the importance of conceptualization in understanding social phenomena and confront terms such as: state, nation, nationalism, patriotism, minorities, identity, ethnicity, religion, class, and race. We will also study the effects of nationalism on political identities, state formation, patterns of political violence, definitions of citizenship and migration policies, as well as voting behavior.

The course also focuses on nation-building, the various policies nation-states have pursued toward different non-core groups over the 19th and 20th centuries in their efforts to make the borders of the state coincide with that of the nation. State policies have ranged from deportation and killings, to forced assimilation or even accommodation. The main emphasis is to understand the logic behind these policy choices and evaluate their consequences. Finally, toward the end of the course we will turn to “third-party nation-building” conducted by international organizations primarily in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans.

Using the reading material we will discuss various research methods (how to collect relevant data) and designs (how to maximize the information we can get from the available data). Issues of falsifiability and external validity of arguments will be discussed. Every student will be required to write a research paper or research design on some aspect of nationalism or nation-building that interests you using primary sources (archives, newspapers, parliamentary debates, memoirs, information sessions, NGO reports).

Course Outline
Week 1 (January 15). Introduction
Week 2 (January 22). State, Nation, and Varieties of Nationalism
Week 3 (January 29). Origins of Nationalism
Week 4 (Feb 5). Defining and re-Defining the Nation
Week 5 (Feb 12). Nationalism and Political Violence
Week 6 (Feb 19). Public Goods, State Formation, and Nation-Building
Week 7 (Feb 26). The International Dimension of Nation-Building
Week 8 (Mar 5). Nationalism, and Resistance to Occupation
Week 9 (Mar 19). Nationalism and Self-Determination
Week 10 (Mar 26). Nationalism and Foreign Policy
Week 11 (April 2). Third-Party Nation-Building
Week 12 (April 9). Nationalism, Immigrant Integration, and Multiculturalism
Week 13 (April 16). Nationalism, Refugees, and Diasporas
Week 14 (April 23). Student Presentations
Requirements:
The requirements for this course include weekly responses to questions I will send you and a research paper or a research design (20-35 pages). Components of the review/paper/design will be graded separately and will be submitted according to the following schedule (each assignment will be due at the beginning of class):

Week 5 (Feb 12): Selection of a topic/empirical puzzle/research question
Week 8 (March 5): Bibliography of existing literature and summary of main arguments
Week 11 (April 2): Relevant history and/or guidelines for data collection
Week 13 (April 9): Abstract, outline, and preliminary findings
Week 14 (April 23): Student Presentations
*Final Papers Due by May 10.*

Average minimum amount of independent, out-of-class, learning expected per week:
Over 14 weeks, students will spend 2 hours per week in lecture (28 hours for the semester).
Homework, assignments, and other out-of-class work is estimated to take up, on average, 8 hours per week (112 hours for the semester). The course includes a final paper for which approximately 40 hours of work is assumed.

Texts
There are 11 books, available for purchase at the GW Bookstore (or you can find them online).

Required:

Recommended:


Blackboard:
This course will use Blackboard for announcements and readings (see “Electronic Reserves”). I strongly encourage you to ensure you have access to Blackboard as soon as possible.

Learning Outcomes:
As a result of completing this course, you will:
1. Improve your presentation skills.
2. Compose a publishable article on the topic.
3. Learn how to assess writings on national history and be alert to propaganda.
4. Understand the origins of national identities.
5. Understand events caused by nationalist ideas.

Class Policies
The following policies are important. Read them carefully.

Attendance - Please come to class on time. Feel free to bring a cup of coffee/tea or water, but please don’t bring food. Cell phones must be turned off. Laptop volume must be set to “mute.”

Grading - Short assignments: 20%, Class participation 10%, Completion of each stage of the paper 5% (20% total), Final Paper and presentation 50%.

Late Work - Late assignments will lose one third of a full grade (e.g., from an A to a A-, to B+ etc.) for each day after the deadline. There are only two exceptions to the late-assignment policy: illness or family emergency. If either of these circumstances applies, you must provide written documentation (such as a doctor’s note if you are ill), and you must communicate with me before the assignment is due (i.e., emailing me on the morning the assignment is due and saying you are sick is not acceptable for avoiding a penalty). I am willing to accommodate documented requests, but you must communicate with me before the assignment is due.

University policies

University policy on observance of religious holidays
In accordance with University policy, you should notify me during the first week of the semester of your intention to be absent from class on a day(s) of religious observance. If an assignment falls on a day you will be observing a religious holiday, we will work together to find an alternative time to complete the assignment. Please communicate with me about holidays in advance of the original due date. I do not intend to observe any religious holidays. For details and policy, see: students.gwu.edu/accommodations-religious-holidays.

Academic integrity code
Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. For details and complete code, see: studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity

Support for students outside the classroom

Disability Support Services (DSS)
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Rome Hall, Suite
102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information see: disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/

**Mental Health Services 202-994-5300**
The University's Mental Health Services offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. For additional information see: counselingcenter.gwu.edu/

**Safety and security**
In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.

To Report an Emergency or Suspicious Activity call the GW Police Department at 202-994-6111 (Foggy Bottom) or 202-242-6111 (Mount Vernon). If the line is unavailable, dial 911. Visit GW Campus Advisories [http://CampusAdvisories.gwu.edu](http://CampusAdvisories.gwu.edu) or call the GW Information Line at 202-994-5050 for incident updates. If possible, turn on a radio or television and listen for further instructions. If your email address or mobile device is registered with Alert DC, check for alert notifications. Make yourself comfortable and look after one other. You will get word as soon as it is safe to come out.
Course Schedule:

WEEK 1 (Jan 15). Introduction


WEEK 2 (Jan 22). State, Nation, and Varieties of Nationalism

State

Nation
Gellner, pp. 1-7.

Varieties of Nationalism

Recommended Reading:
Hechter, pp. 15-17, 35-93.


WEEK 3 (Jan 29). Origins of Nationalism

Nationalism as a by-product
Gellner, pp. 19-62, 137-143.

Anderson, Chapter 4-7.


State-sponsored Nationalism


WEEK 4 (Feb 5). Defining and re-Defining the Nation

Aktürk, Şener. 2012. Regimes of Ethnicity and Nationhood in Germany, Russia, and Turkey. New York: Cambridge University Press.

OR


AND


Recommended readings:


Assignment: Political Science Journals

WEEK 5 (Feb 12). **Nationalism and Political Violence**


Recommended:


Assignment: Selection of a topic/Empirical Puzzle/Research Question

WEEK 6 (Feb 19). **Public Goods, State Formation, and Nation-Building**


Recommended:


Assignment: Datasets

WEEK 7 (Feb 26). The International Dimension of Nation-Building


Recommended:


Grant Proposals

WEEK 8 (Mar 5). Nationalism, and Resistance to Occupation


Assignment: Bibliography of existing literature and summary of main arguments

WEEK 9 (Mar 19). Nationalism and Self-Determination


Lawrence, Adria. 2013. Imperial Rule and the Politics of Nationalism: Anti-Colonial Protest in the French Empire. Cambridge University Press. [Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 6]

Recommended:


WEEK 10 (Mar 26). **Nationalism and Foreign Policy**


WEEK 11 (April 2). **Third-Party Nation-Building**


Recommended:


Barnett Rubin, “Peace Building and State-Building in Afghanistan: Constructing Sovereignty for

Assignment: Write up as much of your empirics as possible. Focus especially on describing the variation in your dependent variable. Relevant history and/or guidelines for data collection.

WEEK 12 (April 9). **Nationalism, Immigrant Integration, and Multiculturalism**


Recommended:

WEEK 13 (April 16). **Nationalism, Refugees and Diasporas**


Recommended:

Assignment: Abstract, outline, and preliminary findings

WEEK 14 (April 23). Student Presentations

Final Papers Due by May 10.