Nationalism and Nation-Building

PSC 8388.80, Fall 2014
Wednesday 6:10 - 8:00PM
(Monroe Hall 250)

Harris Mylonas
406 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 backgound 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 (August 27). Introduction
Week 2 (Sept 3). State, Nation, and Varieties of Nationalism
Week 3 (Sept 10). Origins of Nationalism
Week 4 (Sept 17). Race and Nation
Week 5 (Sept 24). Defining and re-Defining the Nation
Week 6 (Oct 1). Nationalism, War, and State Formation
Week 7 (Oct 8). The Homogenizing Imperative and The Politics of Nation-Building
Week 8 (Oct 15). Nationalism and Self-Determination
Week 9 (Oct 22). Literacy, Nationalism, and Resistance to Occupation
Week 10 (October 29). Ethnic Cleavages and Alliances in Civil Conflicts
Week 11 (Nov 5). Ethnicity, Cleavages, and Electoral Politics
Week 12 (Nov 12). Nation-Building, Migration, and Multiculturalism
Week 13 (Nov 19). Third-Party Nation-Building
Week 14 (Dec 3). 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 (Sept 24):** Selection of a topic/empirical puzzle/research question
- **Week 8 (Oct 15):** Bibliography of existing literature and summary of main arguments
- **Week 11 (Nov 5):** Relevant history and/or guidelines for data collection
- **Week 13 (Nov 19):** Abstract, outline, and preliminary findings

*Final Papers Due by December 15.*

**Texts**
There are 12 books, available for purchase at the GW Bookstore (or online). All books are also on reserve at Gelman Library.

**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.

**Policy on Religious Holidays** - 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.

**Academic Integrity** - By taking this course, you are agreeing to abide by the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “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 the remainder of the code, see: [http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html)

If you are unsure about any aspect of this policy the Writing Center ([http://www.gwu.edu/~gwriter/](http://www.gwu.edu/~gwriter/)) can provide assistance on citation or other aspects of writing papers. Claiming ignorance about how or when to cite sources is not an excuse for academic dishonesty.

**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 Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: [http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/](http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/)

**UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300**
The University Counseling Center (UCC) 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
  - [http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices](http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices)

**Security**
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.

Your first reaction in an emergency should be to stay where you are. Evacuate only if you hear the fire alarm or someone instructs you to evacuate. If you are outdoors during an incident, proceed into the closest GW building unless you are told to do otherwise. No matter where you are on campus, the basic steps of “sheltering in place” are:

- Shelter - in place in an interior room, above ground level, and with the fewest windows. If there is a large group of people inside a particular building, several rooms may be necessary. Shut and lock all windows (locking will form a tighter seal), close exterior doors, and stay away from glass doors and windows. Turn off air conditioners, heaters, and fans. Close vents to ventilation systems as you are able (Facilities staff will turn off ventilation systems as quickly as possible). Make a list of the people with you and call the list in to GWPD (see numbers above) so they know where you are.

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.

**Evacuation** - We will always evacuate if the fire alarm sounds or if the building we are in becomes unsafe. In the event of an evacuation, please quickly gather your personal belongings
(purse, keys, cell phone, GWorld card, etc.) and proceed to the nearest exit. Do not use the elevator.

**Alert DC** - Alert DC provides free notification by email or text message during an emergency. Visit GW Campus Advisories for a link and instructions on how to sign up for alerts pertaining to GW. If you receive an Alert DC notification during class, please share the information immediately.

**GW Alert** - GW Alert provides popup notification to desktop and laptop computers during an emergency. You are encouraged to download this application to your personal computer. Visit GW Campus Advisories to learn how. Additional Information about emergency preparedness at GW can be found on GW Campus Advisories [http://CampusAdvisories.gwu.edu](http://CampusAdvisories.gwu.edu)
Course Schedule:

WEEK 1 (August 27).  **Introduction**


WEEK 2 (September 3).  **State, Nation, and Varieties of Nationalism**

*State*


*Nation*


Gellner, pp. 1-7.

*Varieties of Nationalism*

Gellner, pp. 88-109

Hechter, pp. 15-17, 35-93.


Recommended Reading:


**WEEK 3 (Sept 10). Origins of Nationalism**

*Nationalism as a by-product*
Anderson, Chapter 4-7.
Gellner, pp. 19-62, 137-143.

*State-sponsored Nationalism*

**WEEK 4 (Sept 17). Race and Nation**


Recommended:

*Assignment: Political Science Journals*

**WEEK 5 (Sept 24). Defining and re-Defining the Nation**


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

WEEK 6 (Oct 1). Nationalism, War, and State Formation


Recommended:

Assignment: Datasets

WEEK 7 (Oct 8). The Homogenizing Imperative and The Politics of Nation-Building


Recommended:


Grant Proposals

WEEK 8 (Oct 15). 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:


Assignment: Bibliography of existing literature and summary of main arguments

WEEK 9 (Oct 22). Literacy, Nationalism, and Resistance to Occupation


http://keithdarden.wordpress.com/books/

WEEK 10 (Oct 29). Ethnic Cleavages and Alliances in Civil Conflicts


WEEK 11 (Nov 5). Ethnicity, Cleavages, and Electoral Politics


Recommended:

Assignment: Relevant history and/or guidelines for data collection
WEEK 12. **Nation-Building, Migration, and Multiculturalism**


Recommended:


WEEK 13 (Nov 19). **Third-Party Nation-Building**


Recommended:


James Dobbins, Seth G. Jones, Keith Crane, Christopher S. Chivvis, Andrew Radin, F. Stephen

Assignment: Abstract, outline, and preliminary findings

WEEK 14 (December 3). **Student Presentations**

Final Papers Due by December 15.