



Northeastern University

POLS3418 ~ Nationalism

- Fall 2014 -

M/W: 2:50 - 4:30pm ~ 202 Forsyth Hall

Dr. Philip A. D'Agati
Assistant Academic Specialist, Dept. of Political Science
347 Meserve Hall
617-373-8496
p.dagati@neu.edu

<http://www.northeastern.edu/polisci/people/full-time-faculty/philip-dagati/>

Office Hours: TBA

Objective

While not a young concept, nationalism has grown in its importance in political science due to recent changes in the international system. Nationalism has brought both stability and instability to the world, as it challenges the modern conception of many states. What is nationalism? Where do the attributes of mankind that define our nations come from? Thus, what are the origins of nations? This course will explore these and other questions by looking at the contending theoretical approaches to the study of nationalism. Students will have the opportunity to learn about nationalism, its origins, the degree to which it is scripted to include or exclude others, and its role in the consolidation of states.

Reading Materials

Required Materials

Texts:

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. ISBN: 9781844670864
D'Agati, Philip. *Nationalism on the World Stage*. ISBN: 9780761854517
Danforth, Loring. *The Macedonian Conflict*. ISBN: 9780691043562
Geary, Patrick. *The Myth of Nations*. ISBN: 9780691114811
Hobsbawm, Eric. *The Invention of Tradition*. ISBN: 9780521437738

Packet Readings:

Barth, Fredrik "Ethnic Groups and Boundaries"
Eller, Jack & Reed Coughlan. "The Poverty of Primordiality"
Eriksen, Thomas. "What is Ethnicity" and "Ethnic Classification: Us and Them,"
Geertz, Clifford. "Primordial Ties"
Guss, David. "The Selling of San Juan"
Gramsci, Antonio "The Intellectuals"
Luke, Timothy. "Politics at the Exhibition: Aesthetics, History, and Nationality in the Culture Wars"

Full Text available through library website:

Barreto, Amílcar. (2001). 'Constructing identities: Ethnic boundaries and elite preferences in Puerto Rico', *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 7: 1, 21 — 40
Handler, Richard. (1984) 'On Sociocultural Discontinuity: Nationalism and Cultural Objectification in Quebec.' *Current Anthropology*, 25: 1, 55-64
Mallon, Florencia. (1995). 'Political History From Below: Hegemony, The State, and Nationalist Discourses,' In *Peasant and Nation: The Making of Postcolonial Mexico and Peru*, California: University of California Press, Pg. 1 – 20.

Grading and Requirements

All assignments should be passed in by the assigned deadline. If you need to pass an assignment in late or if you need to miss an exam, please talk to me PRIOR to the due date. Consideration for missed/late exams/papers that I am notified about after the due date will only be accepted with proper documentation. Assignments late without permission or documentable reason may not be graded, at the discretion of the professor.

Midterm Analysis I: 25%

Midterm Analysis II: 25%

Final Analysis: 25%

Participation & Attendance: 25%

[Please note: BOTH Attendance and Participation are mandatory. Excessive absences, without cause, may result in a lowering of your final grade.]

Course and Department Policies

Academic Honesty Statement:

Warning. The Department of Political Science takes very seriously the issue of academic honesty. Any student who appears to violate the University's Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy (see www.osccr.neu.edu/policy.html) may be referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a proven violation involves an exam or course assignment, the student shall receive a failing grade for the assignment, in addition to sanctions imposed by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Individual faculty, with the support of the Department, can impose harsher penalties as they deem necessary.

The Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and other types of dishonest activities. Plagiarism is defined broadly as taking ideas, concepts, or actual words of another person and passing them off as your own work. Of particular note in recent years is the increase in cut-and-paste plagiarism, which involves downloading phrases from websites or other Internet sources. Your instructor will clarify specific guidelines on fair use of material for this class, but you should regard this as your official warning.

Amendments

The Instructor reserves the right to change this Syllabus during the semester. In the event that the syllabus is changed, the class will be informed at the next session of the class. Students are expected to maintain an up-to-date version of the Syllabus for their personal reference.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Excluding excused absences, students are expected to miss not more than 2 classes or meetings. The professor retains the right to lower any student's grade for failure to meet attendance expectations or failure to support the learning environment through regular attendance and participation. This includes attendance at all presentations.

Extensions & Late Assignments

Requests for extensions will only be considered prior to the due date of an assignment. Assignments will not be accepted late unless they are accompanied by documentation detailing circumstances covered under University Policies.

Film Viewing

During this class you will be asked to watch a few films that may be offensive to you for political, social, or moral reasons. You may also encounter scenes with graphic language, violence, or nudity. Before any film is shown in class or is assigned, the professor will give a general disclaimer about the content of the film. If, for any reason, you are uncomfortable viewing specific material, appropriate accommodations will be made for you. I do ask that you remain open-minded during this class and that you expose yourself to different viewpoints whether political, social, or moral.

TRACE Surveys

All students are required to participate in the TRACE evaluation process. TRACE is accessible through the MyNEU Portal and can be filled out on most electronic devices.

Schedule

Week 1 (Sept 3):

Course Intro & Syllabus
What is Nationalism;

Week 2 (Sept 8/10):

Communities
Reading: Geertz, Eller & Coughlin, Anderson (Entire)

Week 3 (Sept 15/27):

Us vs. Them
Reading: Barth, Eriksen (Ch 1 & 2), Hobsbawm (Entire)

Week 4 (Sept 22/24):

Objectification
Reading: Handler

Week 5 (Sept 29/Oct 1):

Identity Construction
Reading: Barreto
Midterm Analysis I

Week 6 (Oct 6/8):

Antiquity of Nations
Reading: Geary (Entire)

Week 7 (Oct 15):

Cultural Hegemony
Reading: Malon, Gramsci
Oct 13: Columbus Day; No Class

Week 8 (Oct 20/22):

Nationalism & International Politics
Reading: Danforth (Entire)

Week 9 (Oct 27/29):

Nationalism & Public Policy
Reading: Luke
Midterm Analysis II

Week 10 (Nov 3/5):

Identity, Propaganda, and War.

Week 11 (Nov 10/12):

Ethno-National Movements in International Relations

Week 12 (Nov 17/19):

Performing National Identity
Reading: Guss

Week 13 (Nov 24):

Performing National Identity
Reading: D'Agati (Entire)
Nov 26: Thanksgiving Break: No Class

Week 14 (Dec 1/3):

Revising and Recreating official state identities.