

POLISCI 4455G/9783B - Nations and Nationalism

Spring 2023

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Office: Social Science Centre 7233

Office Hours: Monday 15:00-17:00

Classroom: SSC 7200

Class time: Monday 12:30 - 14:30

Course Description

This seminar aims to critically discuss the main theories of nationalism in the field of political science. The first part of the course will concentrate on conceptualizing the notions of nation and nationalism. We will begin by evaluating whether nationhood is a primordial byproduct of human history or rather a consequence of modernization. Focusing on the role played by nationalism in state-building, we will answer the following question: do nations create states, or do states create nations? In the second part of this seminar, we will study the various consequences of national diversity and of nationalist movements. Among others, we will analyze the role played by political identities in shaping electoral outcomes and in fueling civil conflicts. Experiences of nationhood in minority and majority contexts will also be discussed, with a particular focus on Western nationalist movements from the 19th to the 21st century. We will conclude this seminar by evaluating how the concepts of multiculturalism, globalization and postnationalism impact the way in which we understand nations.

Grading

1. Midterm Exam (25%)

The midterm will be held in class and will consist of a series of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions. Students will be asked to explain concepts, summarize debates within the literature and make links between the arguments brought forward by various authors. The duration of the exam is 120 minutes.

2. Final Paper (30%)

Your final paper is due on the 12th week of class. This paper will be:

- **4455G:** a 3,000 words (i.e. 12-page double-spaced using Times New Roman in font size 12) case study on a national group of your choosing

- **9783B:** a 3,750 words (i.e. 15-page double-spaced using Times New Roman in font size 12) case study on a national group of your choosing

You will be asked to answer the following question: *how does the political history of this group confirm or disprove theories on the study of nationalism?* Roughly half of your essay should concentrate on the first part of the class (i.e. *Theoretical Foundations*) and half should concentrate on the second part of the class (i.e. *Nationalism in Practice*).

You will need to:

- **4455G:** mobilize a minimum of 4 concepts we discussed in the class, and to cite a minimum of 6 authors from our reading list (either from the mandatory readings or from the supplementary readings)
- **9783B:** mobilize a minimum of 5 concepts we discussed in the class, and to cite a minimum of 8 authors from our reading list, including 1 from the supplementary readings

Evidently, you will also need to cite additional authors that were not discussed in this class to support your analysis, among others regarding the political history of your specific case study. You must include a bibliography at the end of your paper. Western University's citation guidelines are available at <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html>.

I will conduct one-on-one meetings with each student after the midterm to discuss their plan for this assignment and to provide any necessary guidance. These meetings will take place on Monday, February 27th. Please note that your essay will be controlled for the use of artificial intelligence (which is strictly prohibited) and for plagiarism using anti-plagiarism softwares.

3. Reading Quizzes (2.5% each, 20% in total)

There will be 8 reading quizzes over the course of the semester. Questions will concentrate on the main points made by the authors and will be easy to answer for anyone having done the readings. Except under exceptional circumstances, arriving late to class and missing the reading quiz will result in a zero. If you are absent and obtain an accommodation for illness to justify that absence, the reading quiz you missed will be excluded from the calculation of your final grade.

4. Presentation and Critical Summary (10% each, 20% in total)

Each student will be assigned to two texts over the course of the semester, on which they will write a 2-page double-spaced critical summary, which must be submitted online on OWL in a PDF or Word format (Assignments → Critical Summary #1 or #2). Students will present a short 10-minute summary of their work to the group and lead the class discussion on these authors (which involves preparing between 5 and 10 questions for your colleagues to discuss). You will be assigned to these readings on the first week of class. Half of the points will be given for the written part of the assignment, and half of the points will be given for the oral presentation and class discussion.

5. Participation (5%)

You will be evaluated on the quality of your in-class participation after each seminar. Students who actively take part in the discussion while mobilizing concepts from the readings will automatically score these participation points.

Note on attendance: while attendance itself will not be graded, missing class will result in lower participation points and on a zero on the reading quizz for that specific week.

Week	Evaluation	Percent
5	Midterm Exam	25%
13	Final Paper	30%
2-5 & 9-12	Reading Quizzes	2.5% each (20% total)
TBD	Critical Summaries	10% each (20% total)
	Participation	5%

Taking Reading Notes

You are encouraged to take notes while reading and should bring these reading notes to class. It is typically most useful to note down:

- Basic biographical information about the author
- What is the text's main argument?
- How is this argument supported? (ex.: case studies, abstract reasoning, etc.)
- Are you convinced by this argument? Can you think of any pitfall in the author's argumentation?
- How can you contrast this author's main argument with that of the other authors discussed this week (or in previous weeks, when relevant)?

Doing this is the best way to prepare yourself for our in-class discussions and for the assignments.

Lateness and Grading

Late work will be penalized by 10 percentage points for each 24 hours that the submission is late. If illness prevents you from coming to class and from turning in assignments on time, the illness must be documented according to Western's Policy on Accommodation for Illness (available [here](#)).

Office Hours

I will hold office hours to address any follow-up questions, to suggest further readings, to discuss assignments and to cover any other topics relevant to the class. These office hours are held in-person at **Social Science Centre 7233** or via Zoom (with appointment) at the times detailed on the first page of this syllabus.

Medical and Compassionate Extensions

If illness prevents you from coming to class or from turning in assignments on time, the illness must be documented according to Western's Policy on Accommodation for Illness (available [here](#)). To obtain any accommodation in the context of this class, you must email appropriate documentation to the Academic Counselling office at arts@uwo.ca. All requests for medical or compassionate extensions must go through academic counseling only. The Accommodation request is emailed to Professors shortly after, and it is the student's responsibility to follow up with professors and make the appropriate arrangements if approved.

If you use any type of extension for the critical summary assignment, the extension only applies to submitting the written assignment, **not** to the class presentation and discussion, as we have to discuss the readings on the days indicated on our schedule. For the midterm, one make-up exam will be held only for students who have obtained an accommodation the Academic Counselling office. The format for the make-up exam is exactly the same as for the main exam and it will cover the exact same material as the main exam, but with different questions. Having another class or tutorial scheduled during the make-up exam will not be accepted as a reason to miss it. If you have a test or assignment that makes it impossible for you to miss the conflicting class, you must email me the course name and number, its exact start/finish times on the day, the professor's name and email (not a TA), and the reason you can't miss it. I will contact them to confirm. We cannot schedule multiple make-up exams. Accordingly, any requests to also miss the make-up exam will be denied without very good and very documented reasons that we will follow up with phone calls to confirm. If you miss the make-up exam with an accommodation, it will be replaced with a significant research assignment based on all the material and readings covered in the semester.

Duration of Extensions

If it is approved by student counselling, your extension will be for exactly how many days they approve. For example, if the critical summary or paper due date was the 22nd, and your accommodation is from the 22nd to 24th, you will get a 3-day extension (22, 23, 24) meaning your work is then due on the 25th. You must submit your work through OWL by 11:59 pm on the new due date. After that it will be counted as late and the late penalty will start to apply.

If the accommodation dates given by counselling start a day or two after the due date, your extension is still only for the number of days between their start and end dates. For example, if the assignment is due on the 22nd, and your accommodation is from the 24th to 25th, you will

receive a 2-day extension only (24, 25) from the original due date, making it due on the 24th. Applying for an accommodation on a Friday and not hearing back from counselling until the Monday will not give you extra days.

Flexibility with Assignment Deadlines

Students who have the “flexibility with assignment deadlines” accommodation from Accessible Education do NOT need to email me. You must contact academic counselling to have an extension approved and it will be for a maximum of 3 days. Longer extensions will not be granted. Therefore, if the assignment due date was the 22nd, and you receive the 3 day “flexibility with assignment deadlines” accommodation, your work is then due by 11:59 pm on the 25th. Having the “flexibility with assignment deadlines” accommodation does not apply to the date you write the exam.

Re-Writing Assignments and Ignoring Unsubmitted Work

You are not allowed to re-write any submitted work once it has been handed in for marking, unless due to exceptional circumstances as assessed by the Dean’s office. In the event that you do not submit some assignments, you may not have your mark reweighted as to ignore your unsubmitted work unless you have written permission from the Academic Counsellor in your Faculty.

Schedule and learning goals

The learning goals below should be viewed as the key concepts you should grasp after each class. Please note that this schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Week 1 - Theoretical Foundations: Definitions

- **Monday, January 9th:** Defining nations, nationalism and nation-states

Mandatory Readings:

- Ernest Gellner. *Nations and Nationalism*. 2006. (Second Edition) (Chapter 1)
- Rogers Brubaker. *Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe*. 1996. (Chapter 1)
- Karl Popper. *The Open Society and Its Enemies*. 1945. (p. 253-254)

Supplementary Readings:

- Christian Albrekt Larsen. “Revitalizing the civic and ethnic distinction. Perceptions of nationhood across two dimensions, 44 countries and two decades”. *Nations and Nationalism*. 2017.

Week 2 - Theoretical Foundations: Modernism

- **Monday, January 16th:** Do States create nations?

Mandatory Readings:

- Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. 1983. (Chapters 1, 3 and 5)
- Ernest Gellner. *Nations and Nationalism*. 2006. (Second Edition) (Chapters 4 and 5)

Supplementary Readings:

- Eric Hobsbawm. *Nations and Nationalism since 1780*. 1990.
- Charles Tilly. *The Formation of National States in Western Europe*. 1975.

Week 3 - Theoretical Foundations: Primordialism and Ethnosymbolism

- **Monday, January 23rd:** Do nations create States?

- Van den Berghe. *The Ethnic Phenomenon*. 1987. (Chapters 2 and 3)
- Anthony Smith. *Ethnic Origins of Nations*. 1987. (Chapters 1 and 7)

Week 4 - Theoretical foundations: Stateless nations and self-determination

- **Monday, January 30th:** What are the moral and legal claims of stateless nations?

Mandatory Readings:

- Allen Buchanan. "What's so special about nations?". *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*. 1997.
- Stéphanie Chouinard. "Stateless Nations in a World of Nation States". *The Routledge Handbook of Ethnic Conflict*. 2016.

Supplementary Readings:

- Margaret Moore. *The Ethics of Nationalism*. 2001. (Chapter 7)
- Margaret Moore. *National Self-Determination and Secession*. 1998.
- Matt Qvortrup. *Referendums and Ethnic Conflict*. 2022.
- Jean Laponce. *Le Référendum de Souveraineté*. 2010.

Week 5 - Nationalism in Practice: Managing deeply divided societies

- **Monday, February 6th:** How to best manage national diversity?

- Arend Lijphart. *Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration*. 1977. (Chapters 1 and 2, optional: Chapter 3)

- Eugénie Brouillet. “The Negation of a Nation: The Quebec Cultural Identity and Canadian Federalism”. *Roads to Confederation*. 2017. (p. 54 to 63)

Week 6: Midterm Exam

- **Monday, February 13th:** Midterm Exam (25%)

Week 7: Spring Break

Week 8 - Individual Meetings

- **Monday, February 27th:** Discussion and guidance regarding the final paper
 - Meetings will be up to 15 minutes long and will be held in my office (SSC 7233)
 - Students who bring and submit the project summary hand-out available on OWL will get a bonus of 2% on their final grade

Week 9 - Nationalism in practice: Ethnic differences and civil conflicts

- **Monday, March 6th:** Does ethnic diversity impact violent conflicts?
 - David Laitin. *Nations, States, and Violence*. 2007. (Chapter 1)
 - James Fearon and David Laitin. “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War”. *American Political Science Review*. 2003.

Week 10 - Nationalism in practice: National identities and vote choice

- **Monday, March 13th:** Does identity impact political preferences?
 - Marc Guinjoan and Toni Rodon. “A Scrutiny of the Linz-Moreno Question”. *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*. 2016.
 - Mike Medeiros, Jean-Philippe Gauvin and Chris Chhim. “Refining vote choice in an ethno-regionalist context: Three-dimensional ideological voting in Catalonia and Quebec”. *Electoral Studies*. 2015.

Week 11: Case studies: Scotland, Quebec and Catalonia

- **Monday, March 20th:** What can we learn about nationalism from Scotland, Quebec and Catalonia?

Mandatory Readings

- André Lecours. "The Political Consequences of Independence Referenda in Liberal Democracies: Quebec, Scotland, and Catalonia". *Polity*. 2018.
- Michael Keating. "Minority nationalism or tribal sentiments? The case of Scotland, Quebec and Catalonia". *Ethnic Conflict, Tribal Politics: A Global Perspective* 1996.

Facultative Readings

- Félix Mathieu and Marc André Bodet. "Interpreting National Trajectories with Gellner, Anderson and Smith: The Case of Quebec". *Revista d'estudis autonòmics i federals*. 2019.
- Maurice Pinard, Robert Bernier and Vincent Lemieux. *Un Combat Inachevé*. 1997.

____ *Week 12: Looking forward: Multiculturalism, Globalization and Postnationalism* ____

- **Monday, March 27th:** Where are we headed?

Mandatory Readings

- Hanspeter Kriesi et al. "Globalization and the transformation of the national political space: Six European countries compared". *European Journal of Political Research*. 2006.
- Keith Breen and Shane O'Neill. "Introduction: A Postnationalist Era?". *After the Nation? Critical Reflections on Nationalism and Postnationalism*. 2010.

Facultative Readings

- Will Kymlicka. *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*. 1995.
- Miriam Chiasson. "A Clarification of Terms: Canadian Multiculturalism and Quebec Interculturalism". *Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism*. 2012.

____ *Week 13: Wrapping Up* ____

- **Monday, April 3rd:** **Submit Final Paper (30%)**