

POLISCI 4455G/9783B - Nations and Nationalism

Spring 2023

Professor: Evelyne Brie

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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 12-page double-spaced case study on a national group of your choosing
- **9783B:** a 15-page double-spaced 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?*

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

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.

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.

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. Students will present a short 5 to 10 minutes summary of their work to the group and lead the class discussion on these authors. You will be assigned to these readings on the first week of class.

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.

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

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.

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.

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)
 - 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 20 minutes long and will be held in my office (SSC 7233)
 - Students will need to bring in the project summary hand-out available on OWL

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 12: Wrapping Up** —

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