

POSC 247: Comparative Nationalism

Carleton College, Fall 2019



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Fall Term Office Hours:

Tuesdays, 3:00-4:30pm

Wednesdays, 12:00-3:15pm

Thursdays, 3:00-4:30pm

Skype by appointment

“A nation that does not honor its past has no future.” -- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Nationalism is an infantile thing. It is the measles of mankind.” – Albert Einstein

Course Description

Nationalism is an ideology that political actors frequently harness to support a wide variety of policies, ranging from intensive economic development to genocide. In fact, nationalism is arguably one of the most powerful forces shaping modern political life. But what is nationalism? Where does it come from? What gives it such emotional and political power? Are there “good” forms of nationalism and “bad” forms of nationalism? Is it, as Albert Einstein once proclaimed, merely “an infantile disease” that humanity will eventually outgrow, or is it profound and intrinsic to human society? This course investigates these questions in a comparative perspective, drawing on both theoretical literatures on the sources and types of nationalism as well as case studies dealing with nationalism’s different manifestations and political uses.

Course Materials

Hooray, there are no books for you to purchase! The two main course books are available online via the library. If you would prefer to have a hard copy of the books we will be reading (listed below), you are welcome to order them from your preferred retailer. Locally, you might consider ordering from Content bookstore on Division Street. Online, I recommend abe.com for sourcing secondhand books from an international network of independent booksellers.

Here are the books we will be reading (whole or a substantial portion thereof):

Anderson, Benedict. 2006. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism.*, 2nd ed. London and New York: Verso.

Greenfeld, Liah. 2019. *Nationalism: A Short History.* Washington, DC: Brookings University Press.

All remaining materials (articles, videos, etc.) are available on Moodle. You are expected to bring a copy of the readings with you (hard copy or electronic) and take notes/make annotations as you read.

Course Work

Your grade in this course will be based on six elements, which will be weighted as follows:

Participation	12%
Midterm exam	20%
Case study responses	15%
Virtual exhibit	20%
Current events presentations	8%
Final paper	25%

Participation (12%)

Your grade for this component is based on two parts: your active engagement with the course material and your overall “citizenship” in the classroom. Active engagement takes many forms, including close attention to the discussion/lectures, asking clarifying questions about the lecture, bringing up interesting examples and counterexamples of the phenomena we are studying, presenting opposing arguments, challenging assumptions or conclusions, reporting back to the class on small-group discussions, coming to office hours to discuss the material, etc. Throughout the term, we will experiment with many different ways to structure discussion. You should figure out what makes you feel most comfortable and use that channel to add your voice to the class deliberations. It is important that you find some way to be actively involved in the class and add your own reflections and ideas to the larger discussion. Students who simply come to class and listen attentively—but do nothing more—will be unlikely to earn anything above a B- for this component.

Our class is a small epistemic community; we are collectively working towards enhancing and expanding our knowledge, and we each bring different information resources to this common goal. Epistemic communities only work if every member is committed to sharing the information and knowledge they have and doing so generously and without fear. Because a positive and supportive environment is needed for our epistemic community to flourish, citizenship also matters for participation. Behaviors that will negatively affect your grade include: repeated tardiness, unexplained absences, not paying attention in class to me or your peers (by texting, using the internet, engaging in side conversations with your neighbors, etc.), and engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior during lecture, discussions, or presentations.

Midterm exam (20%)

There will be a take-home midterm exam halfway through the term. You will be given several essay prompts. You will select any two and write a response of 6-8 (double-spaced) pages that demonstrate your knowledge of the material and draw substantially on the readings, lectures, and class discussions.

Case study assignment (15%)

Because the literature on nationalism can get a little theoretical — and because we have limited time in the term to delve into a wide variety of cases—this assignment gives you a chance to relate the concepts and ideas from our readings and lectures to a case that is particularly meaningful or interesting to you. You will focus on case study of your choosing and conduct periodic, guided investigations of the case based on a series of prompts that will be posted on Moodle each week (starting in the second week). Some of these prompts will be mandatory, but others will be optional—you may choose the optional prompts to which you respond. You will write a total of five entries/responses (each approximately 500-1,000 words), complete with citations. Each entry will be worth 3% of the grade. Responses are due one week after the prompts are posted. A bonus (and optional) sixth entry will be available at the end of the term; if you turn in six entries, I will drop the lowest grade and use your five highest-scoring assignments.

Virtual exhibition (20%)

You will work in small groups to put together an online “exhibition” related to some aspect of nationalism. Each exhibition will revolve around a specific theme (examples: nationalism in presidential campaign advertising, nationalism and World War I propaganda, nationalism and food culture, nationalism in popular music). Groups must get topic approval from me no later than the end of the fourth week. Exhibits will be hosted on a special class Wordpress site; you will be given more information in class about how to use Wordpress tools to put on your exhibit.

All groups will be responsible for doing research into your chosen topic and producing a collection of guiding essays on it as well as creating a curated selection of primary source items and artifacts, each of which should be described/analyzed and related back to the larger theme. This assignment will have both a group and an individual component: 15% of the grade will be based on your individual work and contribution to group success (including being able to engage in effective group work) and 5% will be based on the overall effectiveness and cohesion of the final exhibition. More details and requirements for this assignment will be discussed in class.

Current events presentation (8%)

We will set aside one day near the end of the term to talk about nationalism and current events topics of interest to the class. To prepare for this class, you will work in small groups, each of which will pick one current events topic to present. Each group will be responsible for selecting one short news article for the entire class to read, and then preparing a presentation/discussion questions/or some kind of interactive activity of their choice to help their peers better understand the issue and how we might analyze it. More information will be provided on this activity in class.

Final paper (25%)

The final paper for this class will be a 10-12 page (double-spaced) research paper on a topic of your own choosing. You must meet with me by the end of the seventh week to get your topic approved. Papers are due on the last day of the exam period.

Course Policies

Please refer to the course Moodle page for more detailed information on the relevant course policies pertaining to:

- Grading
- Late work
- Extensions
- Academic integrity
- Accommodations
- Use of computers, phones, and tablets

It is your responsibility to understand these policies and come to me with any questions or clarifications you might have. As in the real world, ignorance of the rules does not excuse you from the rules.

Schedule of Readings

The readings from this course come from a variety of sources, some of which are intended for a general audience of non-specialists and some for a more specialized, knowledgeable, and scholarly audience of political scientists. Depending on your background and prior experience with the social sciences, you may

find some of these readings to be fairly straightforward. Others may be tougher going and will require more time and effort on your part. Regardless, it is your responsibility to read each piece with care.

Please engage in *active*, not *passive* reading: summarize main points for yourself as you go along, flag points that are unclear, write down questions that come to mind, note points where you agree and disagree with the author, assess whether the author has provided sufficient credible evidence to substantiate the argument, etc. The more work you put in ahead of time, the more productive class time will be. Remember: all readings and assignments are due for the day listed unless otherwise noted.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
1	Tuesday, September 17	Introduction and course overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASAP: familiarize yourself with this syllabus, review course policies, ask any questions about course policies, and visit Moodle site.
	Thursday, September 19	Conceptualizing the nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrington, Lowell. 1997. "'Nation' and 'Nationalism': The Misuse of Key Concepts in Political Science." <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i>, 30(4): 712-716. Renan, Ernest. 1994. "Qu'est-ce qu'une nation?" In <i>Nationalism</i>, John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith, eds. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 17-18. Mazzini, Guiseppe. 1898. "Duties Towards your Country." Pp. 57-63 in <i>An Essay on the Duties of Man Addressed to Workingmen</i>. New York: Funk and Wagnalls. Van den Berghe, Pierre. 1994. "A Socio- Biological Perspective." In <i>Nationalism</i>, John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith, eds. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 96-103. Ignatieff, Michael. 1999. "Nationalism and the Narcissism of Minor Differences." In <i>Theorizing Nationalism</i>, Ronald Beiner, ed. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, pp. 91-102.

What are the Origins of Nationalism?

2	Tuesday, September 24	Historical origins and variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenfeld, Liah, <i>Nationalism: A Short History</i> [entire].
	Thursday, September 26	Modernity and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gellner, Ernest. 2008. <i>Nations and Nationalism</i>. Cambridge, UK and New York: Cambridge University Press, ch. 2-4, 6. <p>First case study prompt posted; due in one week</p>
3	Tuesday, October 1	War and nationalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tilly, Charles. 1999. <i>Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1990</i>. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, ch. 3-4. Posen, Barry R. 1993. "Nationalism, the Mass Army, and Military Power." <i>International Security</i>, 18(2): 80-124.
	Thursday,	Nationalism and the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weber, Eugen. 1976. <i>Peasants into Frenchmen</i>:

	October 3	modern state	<p><i>The Modernization of Rural France, 1870-1914.</i> Stanford: Stanford University Press, ch. 1, 12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. <i>States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control.</i> Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, ch. 1, 4. <p>Second case study prompt posted; due in one week</p>
4	Tuesday, October 8	Literacy and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anderson, Benedict, <i>Imagined Communities</i>, ch. 1-5.

How do Nationalisms Vary?

4	Thursday, October 10	Civic vs. ethnic distinctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kohn, Hans. 1994. "Western and Eastern Nationalisms." In <i>Nationalism</i>, John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith, eds. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 162-165. Smith, Anthony. "Civic and Ethnic Nationalism." In <i>Nations and Nationalism: A Reader</i>, Philip Spencer and Howard Wollman, eds. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, pp. 177-183. Kuzio, Taras. 2002. "The Myth of the Civic State: A Critical Survey of Hans Kohn's Framework for Understanding Nationalism." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i>, 25(1): 20-39. <p>Third case study prompt posted; due in one week</p>
5	Tuesday, October 15	Nationalism and colonialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chatterjee, Partha. 1993. <i>The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories.</i> Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, ch. 1-4.
	Thursday, October 17	Nationalism and socialism/communism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bourguiba, Habib. 1957. "Nationalism: An Antidote to Communism." <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 35(4): 646-653. Slezkine, Yuri. 1994. "The USSR as a Communal Apartment, or How a Socialist State Promoted Ethnic Particularism." <i>Slavic Review</i>, 53(2): 414-452. Zhao, Suisheng. 1998. "A State-Led Nationalism: The Patriotic Education Campaign in Post-Tiananmen China." <i>Communist and Post-Communist Studies</i>, 31(3): 287-302. <p>Midterm exam handed out</p>
6	Tuesday, October 22	Nationalism and religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juergensmeyer, Mark. 2010. "The Global Rise of Religious Nationalism." <i>Australian Journal of International Relations</i>, 64(3): 262-273. Goldberg, Michelle. 2006. <i>Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism.</i> New York and London: W.W. Norton, ch. 1.

6	Thursday, October 24	In-class move	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD <p>Midterm exam due on Moodle by 7pm</p>
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How are Nationalisms Maintained and Perpetuated?

7	Tuesday, October 29	Mythologies, memories, and traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bell, Duncan S. A. 2003. "Mythsapes: Memory, Mythology, and National Identity." <i>British Journal of Sociology</i>, 54(1): 63-81. Trevor-Roper, Hugh. 1983. "The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland." In <i>The Invention of Tradition</i>, Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 15-41.
	Thursday, October 31	Public spaces and memorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnson, Nuala. 1995. "Cast in Stone: Monuments, Geography, and Nationalism." <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i>, 13: 51-65. J. Bell. 1999. "Redefining National Identity in Uzbekistan: Symbolic Tensions in Tashkent's Official Public Landscape." <i>Cultural Geographies</i>, 6(2): 183-213. Mitchell, Katharyne. 2003. "Monuments, Memorials, and the Politics of Memory." <i>Urban Geography</i>, 24(4): 442-459. <p>Fourth case study prompt posted; due in one week</p>
8	Tuesday, November 5	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weber, Eugen. 1976. <i>Peasants Into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France, 1870-1914</i>. Stanford: Stanford University Press, ch. 18. Nozaki, Yoshiko. 2008. <i>War Memory, Nationalism, and Education in Postwar Japan, 1945-2007</i>. London and New York: Routledge, ch. 1 and 7. Arenas, Alberto. 1998. "Education and Nationalism in East Timor." <i>Social Justice</i>, 25(2): 131-148.

Nationalism in the Present-Day and Future

9	Thursday, November 7	Global trajectories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bieber, Florian. 2018. "Is Nationalism on the Rise? Assessing Global Trends." <i>Global Review of Ethnopolitics</i>, 17(5): 519-540. Becker, Jo. 2019. "The Global Machine Behind the Rise of Far-Right Nationalism." <i>New York Times</i>, 10 August. Adler, David. 2019. "Meet Europe's Left Nationalists." <i>The Nation</i>, 10 January. <p>Fifth case study prompt posted; due in one week</p>
	Tuesday,	White nationalism and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonikowski, Bart and Paul DiMaggio. 2016.

	November 12	its alternatives	<p>“Varieties of American Popular Nationalism.” <i>American Sociological Review</i>, 81(5): 949-980.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serwer, Adam. 2019. “White Nationalism’s Deep American Roots.” <i>The Atlantic</i>, April. • Hartzell, Stephanie L. 2018. “Alt-White: Reconceptualizing the “Alt-Right” as a Rhetorical Bridge between White Nationalism and Mainstream Public Discourse.” <i>Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric</i>, 8(1-2): 6-25. • Lepore, Jill. 2019. <i>This America: The Case for the Nation</i>. London and New York: Liveright, pp. 45-138.
	Thursday, November 14	Current events presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current events articles <p><i>Sixth case study prompt posted; due in one week (optional)</i></p>
10	Tuesday, November 19	Globalization and the future of nationalism?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaldor, Mary. 2004. “Nationalism and Globalization.” <i>Nations and Nationalism</i>, 10(1-2): 161-177. • Modood, Tariq. 2018. “A Multicultural Nationalism?” <i>Brown Journal of International Affairs</i>, 25(2): 233-246.
	Monday, November 25	** Final paper due by 7pm on Moodle **	