

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Political Science Department

Political Science 41500
Seminar on Nationalism in the Age of Globalization
Spring 2018
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

Course Description: Nationalism has been the most powerful political ideology in the world for the past two centuries, which is why the world is comprised mainly of nation-states. Nevertheless, nationalism is a difficult concept to grasp. This course focuses on exploring exactly what a nation is and how nations relate to the state. Much attention is also paid to the causes of nationalism, its effects on empires, American nationalism, and how nationalism relates to religion and other ideologies like liberalism and communism.

Course Requirements: Every student is expected to do all the reading, attend every session, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (33%), and two 7-page papers (33% each).

I will provide students with a list of paper topics from which they can choose two. Both papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday of exam week – June 5. Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date. For graduating seniors, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 30.

The papers must be no longer than 7 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font (12).

Readings and Books: The following paperbacks are available at the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (Verso)
David A. Bell, *The Cult of the Nation in France* (Harvard)
Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Cornell)
Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?* (Simon & Schuster)
Robert Jackson, *Sovereignty* (Polity)
Anthony W. Marx, *Faith in Nation* (Oxford)
Yael Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism* (Princeton)
Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States* (Blackwell)
Aristide Zolberg, *A Nation by Design* (Harvard)

All pieces with ** are on Canvas.

Course Outline:

1. March 26 (Mon): **Organizational Meeting**

2. April 2 (Mon): **The Nation – I**

-- Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, read all.

--Walker Connor, "When Is a Nation?" *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (January 1990), pp.

92-103.

-- Anthony D. Smith, *The Antiquity of Nations* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2004), Introduction, chap. 1. **

3. April 9 (Mon): **The Nation – II**

-- Bell, *Cult of the Nation in France*, read all.

-- William H. Sewell, Jr., "The French Revolution and the Emergence of the Nation Form," in *Revolutionary Currents: Nation Building in the Transatlantic World*, Michael A. Morrison and Melinda Zook, eds. (NY: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004), pp. 91-125. **

4. April 16 (Mon): **The Growth of the State – I**

-- Jackson, *Sovereignty*, read all.

-- Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States*, read all.

5. April 23 (Mon): **The Growth of the State – II**

-- James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State* (New Haven, CT: Yale, 1998), Introduction, chaps. 1-2. **

-- Hendrik Spruyt, "International Selection in International Relations: State Anarchy as Order," *International Organization*, Vol. 48, No. 4 (Autumn 1994), pp. 527-557. **

--David Stasavage, "When Distance Mattered: Geographic Scale and the Development of European Representative Assemblies," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 104, No. 4 (November 2010), pp. 625-43. **

6. April 30 (Mon): **Religion and Early Nationalism**

-- Marx, *Faith of Nations*, read all.

-- Daniel Philpott, "The Religious Roots of Modern International Relations," *World Politics*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (January 2000), pp. 206-245. **

7. May 7 (Mon): **The Economic and Military Dimensions of Nationalism**

-- Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, read all.

-- Barry R. Posen, "Nationalism, the Mass Army, and Military Power," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Autumn 1993), pp. 80-124. **

8. May 14 (Mon): **Liberalism and Nationalism**

-- Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism*, read all.

9. May 21 (Mon): **American Nationalism**

-- Huntington, *Who Are We?* read all.

10. May 30 (Wed): **American Nationalism – II**

-- Zolberg, *A Nation by Design*, read all.