Identity, Ethnicity and Nationalism

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Course Description

This course explores the concepts of identity, ethnicity and nationalism from a comparative perspective. Drawing upon theories from political science, anthropology, sociology and economics, we will examine how identity is defined and how societies use these constructions for, among other things, nation-building, welfare distribution and economic development. Theoretical readings will be supplemented with empirical studies from developed and developing countries across different time periods.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend lectures every Tuesday and Thursday and keep up with the readings. Lectures will be interspersed with discussions of the readings. Regular, active and informed participation is expected. There are three in-class midterms during the semester. Plan your schedule accordingly as NO make-up exams will be given for the midterms. There is no final exam.

Grading for the course will be determined as follows:

- Midterm I: 40%
- Midterm II: 30%
- Midterm III: 30%

Readings

In this course, we will read a combination of books, book chapters and journal articles. The books are available for purchase at the Bookstore or, alternatively, are on
reserve at Rush Rhees Library. Journal articles and chapters in edited volumes are accessible through Blackboard.

Texts available for purchase at the Bookstore


(referred to in the syllabus as the Ethnicity Reader)

(Referred to in the syllabus as the Nationalism Reader)


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January 17: Course Introduction

Ethnicity Reader, Chapter 4 (Eriksen).

SECTION I: ETHNICITY

January 22 and 24: What is Ethnicity and Ethnic Identity? Primordialist and Constructivist Approaches to Ethnic Identity

Ethnicity Reader, Chapter 5 (Weber), Chapter 6 (Geertz), Chapter 12 (Barth), Chapter 7 (Eller and Coughlin) and Chapter 9 (Van den Berghe).


January 29 and 31: Variations on Ethnic Constructivism


Ethnicity Reader, Chapter 15 (Hechter).


February 5 and 7: Variations on Ethnic Constructivism II


February 12: Is Ethnicity a Special Identity?


SECTION II: NATIONALISM

February 14: What is Nationalism? How Does it Differ From Ethnic Pride?

Nationalism Reader. Chapter 1 (Renan), Chapter 2 (Lenin), Chapter 3 (Weber)

February 19 and 21: Approaches to Nationalism

Nationalism Reader. Chapter 8 (Kedourie), Chapters 9 and 10 (Gellner), Chapter 11 (Nairn), Chapter 12 (Hobsbawm).

February 26 and 28: Citizenship as a Determinant of Nationalism?


March 5: Review for Midterm
No additional reading

March 7: In-class Midterm I. Remember: there are no make-ups, so please make your spring break plans accordingly!

SPRING BREAK: No class March 12 and 14

SECTION III: ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM AS INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

March 19 and 21: Ethnic War


March 26, 28 and April 2: Nationalist War


April 4 and 9: Governmental Systems and State Structure


Ethnicity Reader. Chapter 55 (Smooha and Hanf) and Chapter 56 (McGarry and O’Leary)

April 11: In-class Midterm II

April 16 and 18: Party Politics and Ethnic Parties


April 23 and 25: Party Politics and “Nationalist Parties”


April 30: In-class Midterm III

Note: There is no cumulative final exam.