History of Nationalism

HIST – UA – 9176 - 001

Instructor Details
Dr Gaëlle Vassogne PhD  
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mobile: 733 723 479  
Office hours immediately before and after class, and by arrangement via e-mail

Class Details
Spring 2013  
Monday – Wednesday 12:00 – 13:20  
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
None but basic historical knowledge about the countries analyzed in class would be a plus.

Class Description
This course will examine the formation of modern national identities, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. After an in-depth study of the different scholarly theories on nationalism and of the relationships between the three fundamental concepts of nation, nationalism and state, the focus will be on the historical circumstances in which nationalism emerged and on the different ideological bases that supported the emergence of modern nations. We will first analyze the birth of the three first modern nations (England, the USA and France) and then place special emphasis on Central (Germany, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Lands) and Eastern (Russia) Europe. The question of the multinational states (especially the Habsburg Empire) and of the attempt to eliminate national tensions by trying to create nation-states after World War I will be analyzed, as well as the use of nationalism by the two main totalitarian ideologies of the 20th century, National Socialism and Communism. We will also at colonial and post-colonial nationalism, as well as at the role played by nationalism in post-Communist Central Europe.

Desired Outcomes
At the end of the semester, students should be familiar with the different aspect of the phenomenon „nation“ and „nationalism“ and should be able to analyze the relationship between them in any given case. They will also possess a solid knowledge of the history of the emergence of major nations, especially in Central and Eastern Europe.
Assessment Components

1. Two unannounced mini-tests: 5% each
2. Mid-term exam: 25%
3. Research paper on nationalism: 30% - Each student, according to his/her interests, will analyze one specific case (not explicitly discussed in class) of nationalism and its relationship with “state” and “nation”. The subject of the research paper should be discussed with and approved by the instructor who will also provide help with the bibliography, the scope and the structure of the paper.
4. Final exam: 25%
5. Participation: 10%

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work. Shows a full mastery of the topic, great engagement in class as well as an organized and personal approach to the questions asked.

Grade B: Good work. Shows a proper mastery of the topic, proper research and coherent argumentation. Good participation in class.

Grade C: Passable work, limited engagement in class, limited knowledge of the subject and insufficient research.

Grade D: Poor work

Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements.

Grade conversion

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Grading Policy

NYU Prague aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range. We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to ensure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-.

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that—it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Attendance Policy

Each unexcused absence will result in your final grade being reduced by 3%. Absences only for medical reasons will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). Absences due to travel will not be excused.

Late Submission of Work

Late submission of work is possible, with a valid reason. However, this needs to be discussed with the instructor in advance. Unauthorized late submission of work will result in the final grade being reduced by 2% per day.

Plagiarism Policy

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were one’s own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one’s own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer’s work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student’s intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science’s Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“Presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else’s idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating—and so is giving that help—unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”
“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” (Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)

Required Text(s)
Reader to be borrowed from the NYU Prague library. Texts with an * can be found in the reader, other assigned texts will be distributed by the instructor. The texts mentioned under “further reading” can be found in the reader or in the NYU library.

Internet Research Guidelines
The careful and critical use of internet resources is encouraged, it being understood that Wikipedia and such websites can be a good way to acquire a first view of the research topic but cannot be considered as scholarly sources. The following website can be very useful:
http://www.nationalismproject.org/

Additional Required Equipment
None

Session 1
Monday, February 11
Overview of course: Content, outcomes, and assessments
Definition of nationalism
Assigned reading
Peter Alter: Nationalism (1989), pp. 2 -8*
Ernest Gellner: Nations and nationalism (1983), pp. 1-7*

Session 2
Wednesday, February 13
What is a nation? (1)
Evolution of the meanings of „nation“.
Assigned reading
Liah Greenfeld: Nationalism. Five Roads to Modernity (1993), pp. 3-26*

Session 3
Friday,
What is a nation? (2)
Different types of nations
**February 15 (make up for Monday classes)**

**Assigned reading**
- Peter Alter: *Nationalism* (1989), pp. 8-15*

**Session 4**

Monday, February 18

Relationships between „nation“, „nationalism“ and „state“

**Assigned reading**
- E.J. Hobsbawm: *Nations and nationalism since 1780* (1999), pp. 14-45*

**Session 5**

Wednesday, February 20

Typology of Nationalism

**Assigned reading**
- Peter Alter: *Nationalism* (1989), pp. 16-38*

**Session 6**

Monday, February 25

The birth of modern nationalism: Tudor England

**Further reading**

**Session 7**

Wednesday, February 27

The birth of modern nationalism: Stuart England, the Civil War and the Glorious Revolution

**Further reading**

**Session 8**

Friday, March 1

„All men are born equal“: the birth of the American state

**Further reading**

**Session 9**

Monday, March 4

From the American state to the American nation: states, slavery, and Civil War

**Further reading**

**Session 10**

Wednesday, March 6

Church, absolutism and the French nation

**Further reading**

**Session 11**

Monday, March 11

Enlightenment, and Revolution: the modern French nation and its excesses

**Further reading**

**Session 12**

Napoleon, the Wars of Liberation and the birth of German nationalism

**Assigned reading**
Wednesday, March 13
Richard Wagner: „German Art“ in: Hans Kohn, Nationalism. Its Meaning and History
Further reading

Session 13
Bismarck and his use of nationalism for the unification of Germany
Assigned reading
Peter Alter: Nationalism (1989), pp. 74-78*
Further Reading
Liah Greenfeld: Nationalism. Five roads to modernity (1993). Chapter on Germany

Session 14
Monday, March 18
Multinational monarchies and nationalism: Hungary in the 19th century
Assigned reading
Oskár Jászi on Forcible Magyarization (1912) in: Peter F. Sugar (ed.), Eastern European
Nationalism in the Twentieth Century (1995), pp. 205-207*
Nationalism in the Twentieth Century (1995), pp. 211-217*
Tibor Frank: „Magyarization at the Turn of the Century“ in: Peter F. Sugar (ed.), Eastern
European Nationalism in the Twentieth Century (1995), pp. 222-227*
Further reading
from the Middle Ages to the Present (London, Routledge, 2001)

Session 15
Wednesday, March 20
Partition and nationalism: Poland in the 19th century
Assigned reading
Roman Dmowski: „Thoughts of a Modern Pole“ (1902) in: Peter F. Sugar (ed.), Eastern European
Nationalism in the Twentieth Century (1995), pp. 243-249*
Program of the Popular National Union (1919) in: Peter F. Sugar (ed.), Eastern European
Nationalism in the Twentieth Century (1995), pp. 249-252*
Nationalism in the Twentieth Century (1995), pp. 263-268*
Further reading
from the Middle Ages to the Present (London, Routledge, 2001)

Session 16
Friday, March 22
Multinational monarchies and nationalism: the Czech lands and Habsburg absolutism
Assigned reading
Hugh LeCaine Agnew: „Noble Nation and Modern Nation: the Czech Case“, in: Austrian
History Yearbook 23 (1992), pp. 50-71*
Carol Skalnik Leff: Czech and Slovak Nationalism in the Twentieth Century in: Peter F. Sugar (ed.), Eastern European
Nationalism in the Twentieth Century (1995), pp.112-125*
Further reading
from the Middle Ages to the Present (London, Routledge, 2001)

Session 17
Monday, Guest lecture: Czech nationalism from the end of World War I to the Velvet Divorce
Assigned reading
Constitutional context of the split of Czechoslovakia*
March 25

**Session 18**
*Mid-term exam*
Wednesday, March 27

**Spring Break**
April 1 – 5

**Session 19**
Central and Eastern Europe and World War I
*Further reading*

**Session 20**
The Paris Peace Conference and Wilson’s principle of „self-determination“
*Assigned reading*
Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points

**Session 21**
It there a Jewish nation? The emergence of jewish nationalism and the different forms of Zionism
*Assigned reading*

**Session 22**
Other Jewish nationalism and the birth of Israel
*Assigned reading*

**Session 23**
Nationalism and Fascism
*Assigned reading*
Peter Alter: *Nationalism* (1989), pp. 35-38*

**Session 24**
Russian nationalism in the 18th and 19th century
Wednesday, April 24  
**Further reading**  
Liah Greenfeld: *Nationalism. Five roads to modernity* (1993), Chapter on Russia.

**Session 25**  
Monday, April 29  
Communism and nationalism  
**Assigned reading**  
Peter Alter: *Nationalism* (1995), pp. 91-97; pp. 104-110*  
**Further reading**  
Liah Greenfeld: *Nationalism. Five roads to modernity* (1993), Chapter on Russia.  
Jiří Musil (ed.): *The end of Czehoslovakia* (Budapest, Central European University Press, 1995)

**National Holiday**  
May 1  
No class

**Session 26**  
Monday, May 6  
Nationalism after the end of Communism: the special cases of the former Soviet Union and of Yugoslavia  
**Assigned reading**  
Peter Alter: *Nationalism* (1989), p. 104-110*  
**Further reading**  

**National Holiday**  
May 8  
No class

**Session 27**  
Monday, May 13  
The threat of colonialism and reform nationalism: the case of Japan  
**Assigned reading**  
Peter Alter: *Nationalism* (1989), pp. 23-25*  
**Session 28**  
Wednesday, May 15  
Nationalism, colonialism, decolonization: the case of India and Pakistan  
**Assigned reading**  

*Research papers are due*

**Session 29**  
**Final exam**
Monday, May 20

Session 30

Return of exams and of research papers

Wednesday, May 22

Classroom Etiquette

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class
Drinking is permitted in class, eating is not.
Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies
Laptops can be used in class with permission of the lecturer
Students are expected to arrive to class promptly and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem, the participation grade will be 0.

Required Co-curricular Activities

None outside of class