

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Political Science Department

Political Science 41500
Seminar on Nationalism in the Age of Globalization
Spring 2013
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 all the seminars, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (25%) and one 15-page paper (75%).

A list of paper topics will be provided, from which students will choose one. Papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday of exam week -- June 12. For graduating students, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 5. Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date. The paper must be: no longer than 15 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font.

Readings and Books: The following paperbacks have been ordered through the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (Verso)
Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Cornell)
Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?* (Simon & Schuster)
Robert Jackson, *Sovereignty* (Polity)
Anatol Lieven, *America Right or Wrong* (Oxford)
Anthony W. Marx, *Faith in Nation* (Oxford)
Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries*, (California)
James C. Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed* (Yale)
Anthony D. Smith, *The Antiquity of Nations* (Polity)
Yael Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism* (Princeton)
Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States* (Blackwell)

All articles, and book chapters are on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. April 2, 2013 (Tues): **Organizational Meeting**

2. April 9 (Tues): **The Nation – I**

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

-- Fredrik Barth, *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference* (Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 1998), pp. 9-39.

3. April 16 (Tues): **The Nation – II**

-- Smith, *Antiquity of Nations*, read all.

4. April 23 (Tues): **The Growth of the State – I**

-- Jackson, *Sovereignty*, read all.

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

5. April 30 (Tues): **The Growth of the State – II**

-- Scott, *Art of Not Being Governed*, read all.

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

6. May 7 (Tues): **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 14 (Tues): **Shaping Identity**

-- Sahlins, *Boundaries*, read all.

8. May 21 (Tues): **The Industrial 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.

9. May 28 (Tues): **Liberalism and Nationalism**

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

10. June 4 (Tues): **American Nationalism**

- Huntington, *Who Are We?* read all.
- Lieven, *America Right or Wrong*, read all.