

**Seminar on Nationalism and the Nation, Fall 2011**

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Class Time and Place:  
Instructor office and hours:

**Course description and objectives:** The idea of the nation is all but taken for granted in the world today. We talk of national governments and national elections, and world politics is most commonly called inter-national relations. Across the world, the nation is assumed to be the fundamental basis for politics. But what is a nation? Do race, ethnicity, language, and religion provide answers to this question? How did the nation come to dominate both political thought and political reality? What ties does it have with the modern state? How does nationalism—as both an ideology and an identity—fit into answers to these questions? The central goal of this course is to familiarize students with these questions and with important scholarly answers to them. Along the way, students will develop skills in critical reading, thoughtful writing, scholarly discussion, and in questioning the social and political world.

**Course requirements and grading:** Your course grade will be based on your participation in class (20%), your performance as —representative|| (15%), ten one-page reading critiques (3% each), and a final take-home essay exam (35%). For more details on these requirements, see page 3.

**Required text:** Philip Spencer and Howard Wollman. 2005. *Nations and Nationalism: A Reader*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. It can be purchased at the university bookstore. All other readings will be either posted on the course website or on reserve at the university library.

**Weekly topics and reading assignments:**

<i>Week (Dates)</i>	<i>Topic (Readings)</i>
1 (8/22, 8/24)	Introduction: Why study nationalism? (Billig excerpt)
2 (8/29, 8/31)	What is a nation? (Renan: —What is a nation?  ; Stalin excerpt)
3 (9/5, 9/7)	What is a nation? (Weber excerpt; Deutsch excerpt)
4 (9/12, 9/14)	Why the nation? Premodernists (Ch1, Smith excerpt; Ch2 Hastings)
5 (9/19, 9/21)	Why the nation? Ethnies (van den Berghe excerpt; Geertz excerpt)
6 (9/26, 9/28)	Why the nation? Modernists (Ch3; Gellner excerpt)
7 (10/3, 10/5)	Why the nation? Constructivists (Ch4; Anderson excerpt)
8 (10/10, 10/12)	Why the nation? The State (Ch 5 Breuilly; Giddens excerpt)
9 (10/17, 10/19)	Forms of Nationalism (Ch12 Smith; Ch13 Billig)
10 (10/24, 10/26)	National Identities (Laitin excerpt; McClintock excerpt)
11 (10/31, 11/2)	The Nation and War (Tilly excerpt; Koenigsberg excerpt)
12 (11/7, 11/9)	Self-determination (Ch15 Moore; Ch18 Beissinger)
13 (11/14, 11/16)	Multinational States (Ch14 Spencer & Wollman; Kymlicka article)
14 (11/28, 11/30)	The Nation and Political Thought (Canovan excerpts; Machiavelli excerpt)
15 (12/5, 12/7*)	The Future of the Nation (Ch19 Mann, Ch21 Held)

\* *Final exam will be handed out in class on 12/7, and will be due on 12/9 at 5pm.*

**Full citations for readings from outside the required text:**

Billig, Michael. 1995. *Banal Nationalism*. Sage Publications. Chapter 1.

Renan, Ernest. 1996. —What is a Nation?|| in *Becoming National: A Reader*, ed. Geoff Eley and Ron Suny. New York: Oxford University Press.

Joseph Stalin. 1972. "The Nation", in *The Essential Stalin: Major Theoretical Writings, 1905-52*, Garden City: Anchor Books (pp. 54-73)

Weber, Max. 1958. —The Nation,|| in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, ed. H.H. Gerth and C. Wright-Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

Deutsch, Karl W. 1966. *Nationalism and Social Communication*. MIT Press. Chapter 4.

Smith, Anthony D. 1971. *Theories of Nationalism*. New York: Harper & Row. Chapter 1.

Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell. Chapter 3.

van den Berghe, Pierre. 1981. *The Ethnic Phenomenon*. New York: Elsevier.

Geertz, Clifford. 1963. *The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States*. In *Old Societies and New States*. Ed. Clifford Geertz. pp. 105–157. Glencoe: Free Press. Selected excerpts.

Giddens, Anthony. 1985. *A Contemporary Critique of Historical Materialism. Vol. 2. The Nation State and Violence*. Cambridge: Polity. Selected excerpts.

Laitin, David D. 1998. *Identity in Formation: The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chapter 1.

McClintock, Anne. 1996. —\_No Longer in a Future Heaven': Nationalism, Gender, and Race.|| In *Becoming National: A Reader*, ed. Geoff Eley and Ron Suny. New Oxford University Press.

Tilly, Charles. 1975. —Reflections on the History of European State-Making.|| Pages 3-83 in *The Formation of National States in Western Europe*, ed. Charles Tilly. Princeton University Press. Selected excerpts.

Koenigsberg, Richard A. 2009. *Nations Have the Right to Kill: Hitler, the Holocaust and War*. Library of Social Science. Chapter 3.

Kymlicka, Will. 2006. "Immigration, Multiculturalism, and the Welfare State." *Ethics & International Affairs* 20(3).

Canovan, Margaret. 1996. *Nationhood and Political Theory*. Selected excerpts.

Machiavelli, Niccolo. 1998. *The Prince*. University of Chicago Press. Selected excerpts. Benjamin Darr Sample Syllabus: Upper-Level Seminar Page 3 of 3