

## **Szabolcs Pogonyi: Introduction to the Study of Nationalism**

Fall 2016, Mandatory course, 8 ECTS credits

### *Course description*

The course will examine the main contemporary theories of nationalism, analyze key concepts and discuss classical debates in the study of nationalism. The course will also serve as a methodological introduction to the study of nationalism. First, we will discuss why nationalism is still an important moving force in contemporary politics and why its scholarly study is still relevant. We will then overview and assess the major systematic typologies of nationalism, examine how key concepts, such as 'nation', 'nationalism', 'ethnicity', 'identity' and related terms are used by different authors. The second thematic section of the course will discuss the main theories (modernism, constructivism, primordialism, postmodernism) explaining the emergence of nationalism. Next, we will briefly examine how nationhood and ethnic symbolism are reproduced in contemporary nationalist discourse and politics. We will discuss the intersection of nationhood and commerce, explore nationalist narratives in pop culture and discuss the phenomenon of national indifference. The last two classes are reserved for student presentations.

### *Requirements*

Students registered for this course are expected to attend classes and participate in in-class discussions. All students must read all the readings, and give two presentations on recommended readings. In-class presentations should sum up and critically analyze the argument of the assigned readings. Presentations are expected to contextualize ideas by drawing on literature not listed in the syllabus, and students are encouraged to assess the implications of the presented theories through relevant case studies. In addition, students are also expected to present a case study in the two last sessions. In these presentations, students are expected to put forward an original hypothesis and discuss a specific case by applying the theories and methods learned in the course.

Students are to write a book review (1,500 words) on a recent book related to the course. Possible titles will be suggested, but students are also welcome to recommend monographs that they would review. In addition, students need to submit an essay (2,500 words) offering critical analysis of the topics and the literature discussed during the course. The book review is due on the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the semester, the deadline of the second paper will be set in September. Papers submitted after the deadline will be marked down by a notch per day.

### *Seminar paper requirements*

Students are to prepare a final paper (minimum 2,500 words plus bibliography) on a subject connected to the topics discussed in the course. Both normative discussions of citizenship theories, empirical/institutional analysis of individual citizenship regimes, and comparative analysis of citizenship legislation are welcome. Papers should include the

critical and comparative analysis of class readings on the topic and include ideas on the applicability of the readings. Papers submitted after the deadline will be marked down by half of a letter grade per day. Final grades will be calculated on the basis of the above; also, class attendance, preparation and participation will be factored into the final grade.

Seminar papers are evaluated according to a number of criteria including the

- a, scholarly relevance of the research;
- b, the relevance and adequacy of the research methodology;
- c, critical use of a wide range of literature and theories;
- d, originality of the argument;
- e, consistency and coherence of the argument;
- f, form and language of the presentation.

#### *Course evaluation*

Class participation and activity:	20%
In-class presentations:	30%
Book review:	20%
Final paper:	30%

#### *Schedule and readings*

##### **Class 1.**

##### **Introduction: why nationalism matters?**

#### *Recommended readings*

Eric Hobsbawm: Nationalism in the Late Twentieth Century. In. *Nations and Nationalisms since 1780. Program, Myth Reality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1990. 163-192.

Michael Mann: Nation-States in Europe and Other Continents: Diversifying, Developing, not Dying. In. John Hutchinson – Anthony Smith (eds.): *Nationalism. Critical Concepts in Political Science*. 2000. 353-374.

Jack Snyder: *From Voting to Violence. Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*. New York: W. W. North & Company. 2000. 15-43.

Michael Ignatieff: The Narcissism of Minor Difference. In *The Warrior's Honor: Ethnic War and the Modern Conscience*. 34-71.

Ruth Wodak & Salomi Boukala: European identities and the revival of nationalism in the European Union. A discourse historical approach. *Journal of Language and Politics*. 14(1). 2015. 87-109

## **Class 2.**

### **Typologies and core concepts**

#### *Readings*

Hans Kohn: Western and Eastern Nationalism. In. John Hutchinson – Anthony Smith (eds.): *Ethnicity*. New York: Oxford University Press. 1996. 162-164.

John Plamenatz: Two Types of Nationalism. In. Eugene Kamenka (ed.): *Nationalism: The Nature and Evolution of an Idea*. Canberra: Australian National University Press. 1973. 22-37.

Presentation 1A: Anthony Smith: The Varieties of Nationalism. In. *Theories of Nationalism*. 1983. New York: Holmes & Meier/Manchester, 211-229.

Presentation 2A: Thomas H. Eriksen: What is ethnicity? In. *Ethnicity and Nationalism. Anthropological Perspectives*. 1993. London: Pluto Press. 1-17.

Rogers Brubaker: “Civic” and “Ethnic” Nationalism. In. *Ethnicity without Groups*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 2004. 132-146.

Henk Dekker – Darina Malová – Sander Hoogendoorn: Nationalism and Its Explanations. *Political Psychology*. Vol. 24. No. 2, 2003. 345-376.

#### *Recommended readings*

Presentation 1B: Benedict Anderson: Western Nationalism and Eastern Nationalism. *New Left Review*. May-June 2001. 31-42.

Presentation 2B: Maria Todorova: Is there weak nationalism and is it a useful category? *Nations and Nationalism* 21 (4), 2015, 681–699.

## **Class 3.**

### **Modernist approaches 1.**

#### *Readings*

Presentation 3A: Ernest Gellner: *Nationalism*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson. 1997. 108. p.

Michael Mann: A Political Theory of Nationalism and Its Excesses. In. Sukumar Periwal (ed.): *Notions of Nationalism*. Budapest: CEU Press. 1995. 44-64.

Benedict Anderson: *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso. 1983. 1-46.

### *Recommended readings*

Presentation 3B: Daniele Conversi: Homogenisation, nationalism and war: should we still read Ernest Gellner? 2007. *Nations and Nationalism*, 13 (3). 371-394.

## **Class 4. Modernist approaches 2.**

### *Readings*

Eric Hobsbawm: Introduction: Inventing Traditions. In. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1992. 1-14.

Presentation 4A: Eric Hobsbawm: Mass-Producing Traditions: Europe, 1870-1914. In. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1992. 263-307.

Thomas Nairn: The Break-Up of Britain. In. *Crisis and Neo-Nationalism: Crisis and Neo-Nationalism*. 1977. 330-341.

### *Recommended reading*

Presentation 4B:  
Eric Hobsbawm: Some reflections on 'The Break-up of Britain'. *New Left Review* I/105, September-October 1977.

## **Class 5. Primordialism and ethno-symbolism**

### *Readings*

Clifford Geertz: The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States. In. *Old Societies and New States: The Quest for Modernity in Asia and Africa*. New York: Free Press. 1963. 105-157.

Presentation 5A: Anthony Smith: *Myths and Memories of the Nation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1999. 1-27; 125-147.

### *Recommended reading*

Presentation 5B: Anthony Smith – Ernest Gellner: *The Warwick Debates*. 1995.  
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/gellner/Warwick0.html>

## **Class 6.**

### **Beyond groupism**

#### *Readings*

Presentation 6A: Rogers Brubaker: Myths and Misconceptions in the Study of Nationalism. In. John Hall (ed.): *The State of the Nation: Ernest Gellner and the Theory of Nationalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1998. 272-305.

Rogers Brubaker: Beyond “Identity”. In. *Ethnicity without Groups*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 2004. 28-63.

Rogers Brubaker: Ethnicity without Groups. In. *Ethnicity without Groups*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 2004. 7-27.

#### *Recommended reading*

Presentation 6B: Andreas Wimmer – Nina Glick Schiller: Methodological Nationalism and Beyond: Nation-State Building, Migration and the Social Sciences. *Global Networks*. Vol. 2. 2002. 301-334

## **Class 7.**

### **Nation and consumption**

Magdalena Kania-Lundholm: Nation in Market Times: Connecting the National and the Commercial. A Research Overview. *Sociology Compass* 8/6 (2014): 603–613.

Zala Volcic and Mark Andrejevic (Eds.): Commercial Nationalism. *Selling the Nation and Nationalizing the Sell*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, TBA

Presentation 7A Sam Pryke: Economic Nationalism: Theory, History and Prospects. *Global Policy* Vol. 3. Issue 3. 2012. 281-291.

Paul Jordan: Nation Branding: A Tool for Nationalism. *Journal of Baltic Studies* Vol. 45, No. 3, September 2014, pp. 283–303

*Recommended reading*

Presentation 7B Tim Edensor: *National Identity, Popular Culture and Everyday Life*. Oxford: Berg. 2002. pp. 139-170.

**Class 8-9.**

**Banal nationalism and everyday nationhood**

*Readings*

Presentation 8A: Michael Billig: Remembering Banal Nationalism. In. *Banal Nationalism*. London: Sage. 1995. 37-59.

Jon Fox – Cynthia Miller-Idriss.: Everyday nationhood. *Ethnicities*. 2008. 8:536–63

Rogers Brubaker, Margit Feischmidt, Jon Fox, Liana Grancea: *Nationalist Politics and Everyday Ethnicity in a Transylvanian Town*. Princeton : Princeton University Press, 2006. 1-23, 357-73.

Presentation 9A: Tara Zahra: Imagined Noncommunities: National Indifference as a Category of Analysis. *Slavic Review*, Vol. 69, No. 1 (Spring, 2010), pp. 93-119.

*Recommended readings*

Presentation 8B: Michael Skey: The national in everyday life: A critical engagement with Michael Billig's thesis of Banal Nationalism. *The Sociological Review*. 2009. 57/2, 331–346.

AND

Michael Billig: Reflecting on a critical engagement with banal nationalism – reply to Skey. *The Sociological Review*. 2009. 57/2, 347–352.

Presentation 9B Pieter Judson: *Guardians of the Nation. Activists on the Language Frontiers of Imperial Austria*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 2007. TBA

**Class 10.**

**Nationalism as ideology and rational choice**

*Readings*

Russell Hardin: *One for All. The Logic of Group Conflict*. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press. 1995. 46-69.

Michael Hechter: Nationalism and Rationality. *Journal of World-Systems Research*. 2000. vi. 2, 308-329

Presentation 6A: Michael Freeden: Is Nationalism a Distinct Ideology? In. *Liberal Languages: Ideological Imaginations and Twentieth-Century Progressive Thought*. 2005. 204 – 224.

*Recommended reading*

Presentation 6B Ashutosh Varshney: Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Rationality. *Perspectives on Politics*. Vol. 1. 2003. 85-99.

**Class 11-12.**

**Student presentations**