

Fall 2016
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NATIONALISM AND POLITICAL THEORY

Time: Wednesday, 9:00 – 10:40, 11 – 12:40

Course description:

The course intends to approach the topic of Nationalism from the perspective of Political Theory. After more history oriented viewpoints, the course will focus on different concepts contemporary political theory is using – like modernization, totalitarianism, democracy, transformation. The aspect of multi-level and cross-cutting identities will be discussed as well as the impact of recent trends in international relations – especially the question of the declining role of the nation state under the auspices of globalization.

The focus will be on the following questions:

- the historical role of nationalism;
- functional changes of nationalism and of the nation state;
- the (wrong?) predictions of the foreseeable end of nationalism;
- the competition between different (national and other) identities;
- democracy between exclusion (“ethnos”) and inclusion (“demos”);
- the possibilities of “multiculturalism”;
- the consequences of globalisation.

Course Description

The course follows two general directions:

- An introduction into the key concepts and discourses in the field of (especially contemporary) Political Theory (like democracy, state, political culture, post-modernism, etc.)
- Systematic links between Political Theory and the different expressions of nationalism with particular emphasis on contemporary phenomena

Requirements:

The students are expected to

- participate actively in all classes. This requires preparation by reading the designed texts;
- give (at least) one presentation. The presentations schedule (who, what, and when) will be decided in the second week;
- write a term paper (appr. 3500 words) to be delivered at the end of each of the term.

The students are asked to contact me whenever they need further information or special advice via e-mail. The grades will be based on the quality of the term paper (50 percent), the overall participation (25 percent), and the quality of the presentation (25 Percent).

Format

The course will be a combination of lectures, presentations, and discussion. Based on the reading materials, each class will consist of students' presentations and a lecture – both followed by questions, comments, and critique.

Learning Outcome:

The students should be enabled to view the different key aspects of nationalism from different view points of Political Theory (like state, modernization, totalitarianism, democracy, transformation, peace, multiculturalism, et al.).

Schedule

The classes will follow the reader and its structure. Each of the 11 chapters the reader contains will be presented and discussed in class.

1. Week 1: September 21

Nation and Nationalism I

Readings: Cannadine, Sowell

2. Week 2: September 28

Nation and Nationalism II

Readings: Gellner, Hobsbawm

3. Week 3: October 5

Nation and State

Readings: Weber, Skocpol, Greenfeld, Horowitz, Judt, Sassen

4. Week 4: October 12

Modernization

Readings: Marx, Beer, Inglehart, Inglehart

5. Week 5: October 19

Totalitarianism

Readings: Arendt, Talmon, Buruma

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6. Week 6: October 26

Democracy

Readings: Schumpeter, Lijphart, Dahl, Sowell

7. Week 7: November 2

Democratic Transformation

Readings: Linz/Stepan, Hobsbawm, Snyder

8. Week 8: November 9

Multiculturalism and Transnational Identities

Readings: Taylor, Kymlicka, Laitin

9. Week 9: November 16

The Nation State and the International Order

Readings: Huntington, Ash, Guibernau

10. Week 10: November 23

Conflict and Peace

Readings: Kagan, Weeks

11. Week 11: November 30

Globalization – Beyond the Nation State?

Readings: Brubaker, Brubaker, Kymlicka

12. Week: December 7

Feedback, Evaluation, Debating the term papers

December 31: Deadline for term papers

