

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
Department of Political Science

Political Science 41500  
Seminar on Nationalism in the Age of Globalization  
Winter 2009  
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

Course Description: Nationalism has been the most powerful political ideology in the world for the past two centuries. This course examines its future in the age of globalization, focusing in particular on the widespread belief that it is an outmoded ideology. Among the topics covered in the course are: the causes of nationalism, its effects on international stability, nationalism and empires, globalization and the future of the state, and how nationalism relates to liberalism, communism, and religion.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to do all the reading, attend class each week, and participate in the discussion. Grades will be based on class participation (25%) and one 15-page paper (75%).

A list of paper topics will be provided in week 8. Papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday of exam week – March 18. 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.

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

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (Verso)  
Patrick Geary, *The Myth of Nations* (Princeton)  
Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Cornell)  
Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?* (Simon & Schuster)  
Anatol Lieven, *America Right or Wrong* (Oxford)  
Anthony W. Marx, *Faith in Nation* (Oxford)  
Conor Cruise O'Brien, *God Land: Reflections on Religion and Nationalism* (Harvard)  
Ronald Suny, *The Revenge of the Past* (Stanford)  
Yael Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism* (Princeton)  
Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States* (Blackwell)

Other Readings: All are available on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. January 7, 2008 (Wed): **Organizational Meeting**

2. January 14 (Wed): **The Classics**

- Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, read all.
- Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, read all.

3. January 21 (Wed): **The Roots of Nations**

- Patrick Geary, *The Myth of Nations*, read all.
- Miroslav Hroch, "Real and Constructed: The Nature of the Nation," in John A. Hall (ed.), *The State of the Nation: Ernest Gellner and the Theory of Nationalism* (Cambridge, 1998), 91-106.

4. January 28 (Wed): **The Growth of the State**

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

5. February 4 (Wed): **Religion and Early Nationalism**

-- Marx, *Faith of Nations*, read all.

6. February 11 (Wed): **Religion versus Nationalism**

-- Ernest Barker, *Christianity and Nationality: Being the Burge Memorial Lecture for the Year 1927* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1927), read all.

-- O'Brien, *God Land: Reflections on Religion and Nationalism*, read all.

-- Monica Toft, "Getting Religion? The Puzzling Case of Islam and War," *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (Spring 2007), pp. 97-131.

7. February 18 (Wed): **Liberalism and Nationalism**

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

8. February 25 (Wed): **Nationalism and the Collapse of the Soviet Union**

-- Suny, *Revenge of the Past*, read all.

9. March 4 (Wed): **American Nationalism-I**

-- Huntington, *Who Are We?* read all.

10. March 11 (Wed): **American Nationalism-II**

-- Lieven, *America Right or Wrong*, read all.