COURSE SYLLABUS

Nationalism and Democracy
Core course in the Nationalism Studies program

This version: 9 September 2018

Instructor:
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Autumn semester 2018
MA
4 Credits (# ECTS Credits)
Pre-requisites: open for students enrolled in Nationalism Studies (core course) and for students enrolled in Political Science & IRES (elective), other programs: previous knowledge of social science methods required

Course hours: Wednesday 11.00-12.40 and 13.30-15.10
Course e-learning site: tbd


Course Description
Nationalism and Democracy resemble a couple in a stormy marriage. In the origin of (Western) democracies, the two were symbiotic: democracy often implied the imagination of a nation. Vice-versa, nationalism in its historical shape also implies the liberation of the people from authoritarian rule, and the introduction of self-rule. Nevertheless, nationalism today is often characterised as the enemy of (liberal) democracy. In the course of the transition towards democracy, (ethnic) nationalism often appears as a side-product, leading to civic conflicts and/or ethnocracies, rather than democracy.

This course scrutinises the connection of nationalism and democracy. Thereby, it makes a tour d’horizon of several political science perspectives on nationalism. It starts with authoritarian political regimes, and the role of nationalism in the course of the transition towards democracy. It discusses why the introduction of democratic rule can lead to’ mobilisation along ethnic lines, and/or ethnic conflict. It looks at the rise of nationalist parties and populism, both in established democracies and democratising states. It compares democratic citizenship regimes, and relates them to the notion of the nation. And it analyses to what extent public opinions and political cleavages are linked to the nation. Last but not least, the course analyses which models of democracy are best suited for multicultural
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societies, looking at political institutions (federalism, power-sharing), as well as at minority rights.

Most of the course is based on empirical studies from contemporary multicultural regimes, qualitative and quantitative, complemented with some readings on historical cases, and theoretical contributions. Some of the class hours will be devoted to research methods in empirical political science/social sciences.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

✓ Students will be familiar with basic concepts from comparative politics.
✓ Students will be able to distinguish and analyse political regimes and
✓ Get an insight into contemporary shapes and problems of nationalism.
✓ Understand the logic of comparative studies in political science/social science, and being capable of decipher such research
✓ Conduct and write a simple empirical analysis.

Course requirements and assessment

Attendance and active class-room participation (15 %)

Expert for one week or session (20% of the grade)

Participants have to prepare for an expert discussion in class (25% of the grade), based on the expert readings and the discussion questions, on which we agree beforehand. (Enrol for an office hour no later than 10 days before your ‘expert week’). Reading lists can be changed, in agreement between the lecturer and the experts. Experts prepare to respond to questions in a cohesive way, but do not prepare a linear presentation (see below). Each expert prepares material for about 15 minutes of discussion.

The topic of the expert discussion can overlap with the topic of the paper, which the student writes in the second semester of the seminar.

Deadline: Expert discussions take place between week 3 and week 12. There are 1-2 discussants per class. Topics and dates will be assigned in the second week of the semester. To the extent possible, I will try to consider the interests of the students.

Short assignments (15% of the grade)

Assignment 1: problem articulation

Problem articulation (200-300 words) on one or several broader questions (will be introduced in first meeting). Deadline: 25 September 2018, 13.00h

Assignment 2: abstract

Outline of the research design of your final paper. Max. 1 page. Containing research question, preliminary case selection, and idea about the hypotheses and empirical materials to be analysed. Deadline: 2 November 2018, 23.59h

Assignment 3: discussant
Discuss the abstract of one other student, and provide comments to each of the other participants of your group (to be defined) at the feedback sessions. On 7 & 14 November 2018, timetable to be agreed on.

**Final paper (50%)**
Course participants will submit an empirical, comparative research paper, focused on a topic connecting nationalism and (non-)democracy/democratisation, or related key questions in politics. 5000 words. Deadline to be announced.

Grading criteria:
- Originality: is there a clear idea behind the paper (and is it followed and answered in the paper)?
- Clarity: is the argument well structured?
- Case selection and choice of appropriate data: is the selection of the cases and data well explained and convincing?
- Fit of theory and empirical analysis: does the design for the empirical analysis fit the theoretical concept to be investigated?
- Is the operationalisation clear and valid?
- Conduct of the empirical analysis and appropriateness of the conclusions.
- Overall structure of the paper: is there a clear golden thread throughout the paper? Does the introduction/conclusion refer to the paper, is the research design written and structured clearly, does it fulfil formal standards, is the structure appropriate?

**Late submission:** In case of late submissions, three grade points from the final grade of the assignment are deducted for every 12 hours of delay. For instance, submitting 15 hours late leads to a deduction of six points.
Course programme

I. Nationalism, democracy, and political science

Week 1 (19 September) – Introduction. Nationalism and conflict, and what political science can say about it
Political transitions towards democracy and the rise of nationalism. Multiple political science perspectives on nationalism.

Required readings:

Further readings:

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II. Does democracy need nationalism?
Social and economic prerequisites for the establishment of democracy. Are the people’s sovereignty and the nation two sides of the same medal?

Week 2 (26 September) – Democracy and the nation
Connections between the nation and democracy. The social and economic prerequisites for democratisation.

Required readings:

Further readings:
Nationalism and Democracy (Autumn 2018)


**Week 3 (3 October) – Identity politics**

How politics shapes identities in democratic and non-democratic states. The social, cultural, and political basis of identities.

**Required readings:**


* Background reading, optional. Gives you an overview of a field you might already be familiar with from other courses from Nationalism Studies.

**Expert readings:**


**Further readings:**


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III. Does democratisation lead to nationalist conflict?
*Do political transition and elections lead to violent ethnic conflict?*

Week 4 (10 October) – Transition, mobilisation, conflict
Motivations and reasons for ethnic conflict.

Required readings:
Refresh: Snyder 2000 chapter 1 (from week 1)


Expert readings:

Further readings:
Week 5 (17 October) – Mobilisation in divided and in immigration countries

Similarities between nationalist mobilisation in ethnically divided countries and immigration societies. Are nationalist mobilisation and populism a threat to democracy?

Required readings:

Expert readings:

Further readings:


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**IV. Democracy and the nation: how to accommodate cultural groups in democracies**

*Is democracy in divided societies possible? What is the most appropriate model for it?*

**Week 6 (24 October) – Political regimes for divided societies: consociationalism or centripetalism?**

An introduction to the two prevalent schools about political regimes for divided societies, consociationalism and centripetalism. We compare the consociational type both in democracies and in non-democracies.

**Required readings:**


**Expert readings:**


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Further readings:
Week 7 (31 October) – Actors’ strategies, and problems of power-sharing regimes and centripetalism

Challenges and pitfalls of centripetalism of power-sharing regimes and centripetal institutions: is power-sharing (consociational democracy) compatible with liberal rights? How do political actors react to institutional incentives for moderation?

**Required readings:**

**Expert readings:**
Juon, Andreas and Daniel Bochsler (2017) The two faces of power-sharing, IPSA workshop "Democratization and Constitutional Design in Divided Societies". Nicosia.

**Further readings:**

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V. The “demos” and the territorial order

*Citizenship regimes, and territorial organisation of the state*
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Week 8 (7 November) – Federalism and partition
Is federalism or territorial autonomy a solution to ethnic grievances, or is it a first step to separatism? Is partition of states the last resort to resolve ethnic conflict? How sustainable is it? We discuss federalism and territorial autonomy in the context of democracies and non-democracies.

Required readings:

Expert readings:

Further readings:
Nationalism and Democracy (Autumn 2018)


**Non-territorial autonomies**


**Week 9 (14 November) – Political, cultural and economic inequalities**

Economic inequalities, cultural and political rights of minorities. How multiple inequalities reinforce each other. The rights of migrants and ‘historical’ minorities in comparison.

**Required readings:**


**Expert readings:**


**Further readings:**


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**Week 10 (21 November) – Citizenship and voting rights**

How do democracies define their citizens? How do citizenship rights reflect the idea of the nation? How do states include diasporas and co-ethnics across the borders?

**Required readings:**


**Expert readings:**


**Further readings:**


Week 11 - no meeting

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VI. The international system and domestic politics

Week 12 (5 December) – Peacebuilding missions, transitional justice

International intervention during and after civil wars; transitional justice: how do international actors and institutions affect domestic politics and democracy. The different modes of transitional justice - international and domestic courts, truth commissions.

Required readings:

Expert readings:

Further readings:
On international interventions, peacebuilding, and domestic politics.


On transitional justice: