UGST4055 – NATIONS AND SOCIETY
PPE COURSE

PREREQUISITE: None
ECTS CREDIT VALUE: 4
MEETINGS: Monday/Wednesday 13:50-14:50
INSTRUCTOR: Róbert Sata (satar@ceu.edu)
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday/Thursday: 13-15, please make appointment via email
TEACHING ASSISTANT: TBA

Course Description:
Nationalism and democracy resemble a couple in a stormy marriage. This course offers a tour d’horizon of the literature connecting nations, the state, and societies, under the guiding questions whether democracies can exist without a nation, and whether nationalism hurts democracy and peace. It discusses nationalism both in established democracies and democratizing states, in immigrant societies and in countries that are constituted as multiethnic/multicultural states. We discuss how nationalism and nations relate to the state and political regimes and regime transitions, processes of inclusion and exclusion, institutions of democracy, citizenship rules, and public policies. We will have discussions on the 'politics of identity' in countries both east and west to highlight how democracy can often be conceived based on exclusion (‘ethnos’) and inclusion (‘demos’). We examine majority-minority relations as well as what are the challenges that multiculturalism must face today. Last but not least, we look at the consequences of globalization, populism or technological development for the politics of identity and who has the right to self-determination or what rights different minorities should enjoy. The course is based on empirical research from contemporary multicultural regimes.

Learning Objectives:
This course introduces the students to the study of nationalism. It starts with the development of modern states and societies and the links between the political community and social categories such as class, religion, ethnicity, race, and gender. Students gain knowledge about the main features of modern states. The various socio-political phenomena are studied in historical and comparative perspective. Students learn about national identity as well as multiculturalism and the contemporary challenges nation states face in the globalized world. The class aims to critically discuss the 'politics of identity' and assess what happens when politics is reduced to the struggle for ‘identity.’

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course, students will be able to (1) understand the origins of contemporary socio-political structures within modern nation states; (2) identify the major approaches within nationalism studies; (3) be aware of the role of socio-cultural factors play in political processes; (4) grasp the impact of political decisions on social and cultural relations and identifications. More generally, students will be able to (5) follow debates in comparative politics, nationalism and political sociology.

Learning Activities:
Given the importance of interactive learning in the course, class attendance is essential. Students
are expected to be on time and prepared for class, having read the required readings. Most sessions will consist of introductory lectures followed by structured in-class discussions based on the required readings. Other sessions will be based on student group work to discuss in class and present ideas in front of their peers based on selected readings or contemporary contentious topics. Active participation and performance in these group exercises counts towards the class participation grade.

Peer Learning Groups
Students will form peer learning groups to fulfill take-home assignments. The peer learning groups are expected to meet for an hour every week to focus on the week’s readings and raise discussion questions or address any issues pertaining to topics covered in-class exercise. 4-5 students should sign up for a group to facilitate individual participation. For every group, a student should serve as moderator of the discussion, while another acts as note-taker, with these roles rotating each week. The moderator should ensure everyone has a chance to participate in the discussion, while the note-taker pens down the key points raised in the group discussion. The group moderator and the note-take will prepare a max. one page (300 words) memo on behalf of the group. These memos should facilitate in-class discussion by raising questions or noting points that need further clarification. Discussion memos should be sent to the entire group and the instructor by Saturday 5pm of the respective week.

Assessment:
Class attendance and participation: 15%
Attendance is mandatory. Students should come to class prepared and participate actively in the discussions throughout the semester. Short quizzes on readings will be administered in class. The use of electronic devices is discouraged in class. Laptops/tablets/e-readers can be used solely to aid in-class activity. The use of phones is not allowed. You are encouraged to express your ideas in class. Class discussion is about ideas, not people; and it is fine to disagree (even with the instructor), or have others disagree with you. Participation is not only a measure of the quality and quantity of your interaction with the instructor but also with your peers in class.

In-class debates: 15%
Students will prepare for a short in-class debate to take place in the second part of the course. Reading of W7-W11 will form the basis for in-class debates, covering different contemporary contentious topics. The debates will be based on the take-home assignments to be completed in peer learning groups (see below). For these debates, it is important to remember that there is no right answer or solution but we are interested in what arguments can be made pro and con a specific issue. More information will be available in class.

Take-home assignments: 30%
Students will sign up for peer learning groups and each group will need to submit reading memos for the topics of W2-W5 and the debate readings of W7-W11. Each student is expected to actively participate in the group activities and they will act as mediator/note-taker throughout the semester. Each learning group should choose a week when they present points they raise in their reading memos to the entire class and lead the class discussion. The same way another peer group will be designated as the main discussant group of the reading memo during class. All students in the group will be graded collectively for the assignments. Immediate feedback will be provided on all assignments.
via e-learning and in-class discussion.

Two In-class Exams: 40%

The course will feature a mid-term exam and a final exam. Each of the exams will cover the topics from the preceding five weeks of the course. It will be written in-class and will consist of short answer essay questions/exercises. More information will be available in class before the exam.

Extra Credit:

Since the main goal of this class is learning, not grades, there will be opportunity during the semester to gain extra credit. Details will be announced in class.

Grading and class policies:
Grading is based on a 100-point scale, without rounding up, according to the CEU university grading scale. Late assignments submitted after the respective deadline will be penalized by a deduction of one grade point (e.g. from A to A-) for each 24 hours after the deadline. Students using phones or electronic devices for purposes other than class activity will be asked to leave the class immediately and will be counted as absent from class. The main communication channel for the class is via email, students are expected to respond in a timely manner, latest within 24H.

Readings:
All reading materials have been compiled into a course reader. All readings are made available online via the course’s e-learning site. Please note copyright rules, these materials are made available solely for educational use for this course. The e-learning site can be enriched with content throughout the semester. The e-learning site is also the only place where students can submit assignments. Students should check the site regularly not to miss any update of the course.

The course relies on the following textbooks on Nationalism:

The course often makes recommendations to readings from the following classical Comparative Political Science textbooks:

Recommended literature
Course weekly outline

W1 – Class Intro and Conceptual preliminaries
The study of nationalism. Ethno-symbolism. Construction of Nationhood. Imagined Communities. States without nations?

Required reading:
Spencer and Wollman, Chapter 1, pp. 23-31; Chapter 4, pp. 48-60.

Recommended reading:
Coakley, Chapter 1, pp. 3-26.

W2 – Modernity and nationalism
Defining states. The rise of the modern state. Modernists vs. primordialist. Legitimacy, autonomy, centralization and state capacity.

Required reading:
Spencer and Wollman, Chapter 2, pp. 32-40; Chapter 3, pp. 40-47; Delanty and Kumar, Chapter 13, pp. 157-169 and Chapter 14, pp. 169-182.

Recommended reading:
Spencer and Wollman, Chapter 5, pp. 61-74.
Bieber, Chapter 3, pp. 35-66.
O’Neill, Chapter 2, pp. 34-60.
Newton and van Deth, Chapter 1, pp. 13-33.

W3 – State building in the Far East and South Asia

Required reading:

Recommended reading:


**W4 – Forms of Nationalism**

The good and bad in nationalism? Ethnic and civic nationalism. Every day forms of nationalism, Sport, mega events and nationalism.

Required reading:

- Spencer and Wollman, Chapter 12, pp. 177-84 and Chapter 13, pp. 184-196.

Recommended reading:

- Delanty and Kumar, Chapter 21, Chapter 22, and Chapter 25.
- Coakley, Chapter Chapter 8, pp. 167-192.
W5 – Nations and Society

Required reading:

Recommended reading:
Coakley, Chapter Chapter 7, pp. 139-166.
Delanty and Kumar, Chapter 20.
Bieber, Chapter 6, pp. 129-158.
O’Neill, Chapter 3, pp. 63-95.
Caramani, Chapter 4, pp. 69-85.
Newton and van Deth, Chapter 2, pp. 34-52

W6 – Review and Exam 1

W7 – The triadic nexus and the break-up of Yugoslavia. Territorial autonomy.
Is identity a source of conflict? Expanding the study of majority-minority ethnic relations. Territorial Autonomy: Permanent Solution or Step toward Secession?

Required reading:
W8 – The nation state, globalization and the EU
European integration and sovereignty. The interconnectedness of domestic and international politics. Globalization challenges for modern, postcolonial and modernizing states.

Required reading:
Spencer and Wollman, Chapter 19, pp. 279-300 and Chapter 21, pp. 217-27.

Recommended reading:
Caramani, Chapter 23, pp. 419-438 and Chapter 24, pp. 439-454.
O’Neill, Chapter 11, pp. 338-367.
Newton and van Deth, Chapter 6, pp. 105-133.

W9 – Citizenship and migration
The age of migration: citizenship. Nationalism vs. Cosmopolitanism. Transnational affiliation and national identities. The politics of diversity

Required reading:
Spencer and Wollman, Chapter 20, pp. 301-316.

Recommended reading:
Bieber, Chapter 7, pp. 159-186.

W10 – Challenges of multiculturalism
What is multiculturalism? Has multiculturalism failed? Can Islam challenge multicultural democracies? What is the future of multiculturalism?

Required reading:

Recommended reading:

W11 – Nationalism, the Populist challenge, and the future of the democratic state
The relationship of nationalism and populism. The rise of nationalism and authoritarianism in recent years? Challenges to the modern state.

Required reading:
Bieber, Chapter 8, pp. 187-212.
Delanty and Kumar, Chapter 31, pp. 369-82.

Recommended reading:
Coakley, Chapter 11, pp. 243-50.
Newton and van Deth, Chapter 18, pp. 383-399
Caramani, Chapter 25, pp. 455-471.
Michaelangelo, Anastasiou. “Of Nation and People: The Discursive Logic of Nationalist


W12 – The Clash of Civilizations. Course wrap-up and Exam 2

Required reading:

Recommended reading: