

POLITICAL SCIENCE 110N **Theories of Nationalism**

-Introduction-

Recent transformations in global politics – from resurgent nationalist violence, to undemocratic closures sparked by diasporic populations, and transnational migration movements generally – have forced both policy makers and political theorists alike to engage the role nationalism plays in contemporary political life. Much of this current climate illustrates how the ‘nation,’ defined politically, has great normative significance for those who are included and excluded by its definition.

This course studies the development of various philosophical theories of nationalism, as well as the real political stakes set in employing the ‘nation.’ Particular attention will be given to the historical construction of constitutive components of nationalism, including the political limits of the nation, as well as arguments on ethnic and civic parameters. Focus will also be directed at contemporary problems, including the relationship between democracy and nationalism, the normative foundations of national self-determination, and the political benefits drawn from affective experiences of nationalism. The ultimate aim of the course is to provide historical perspective on the development of political theories of nationalism in their many transformations.

-Class Structure-

Each class will consist of an 80-minute lecture. There, I will present a contextualization of issues and themes pertinent to a thorough understanding of the assigned texts.

You should have read all required materials before lecture, as my discussions will draw extensively from the texts themselves, and will be aimed specifically at answering questions drawn from these readings. Keeping this guideline in mind, I have tried (where appropriate) to limit your readings to essential selections, so that you may have more time to reflect on the central ideas from these texts. You should spend ample time with the required readings for each class, as many of them are difficult and will require serious reflection and multiple re-readings.

There are, in addition, further readings listed, which may prove helpful for your exploration of the issues presented in this course. These ‘**Recommended**’ readings are secondary source discussions that should prove helpful to compliment your reading and the lectures.

-Course Requirements-

There are **two** requirements for this course:

1. 7-8 page Mid-Term Paper
This exam covers required readings as well as materials in lecture from weeks 1-5
Topics to be distributed on April 29th
Due in class, May 6th - 40%

2. Comprehensive Take-Home Final Examination (9-10 pages)
This exam will cover *all* required readings as well as materials covered in lecture.
Topics to be distributed on June 3rd
Due (location TBA) on or before noon on June 11th - 60%

Alternatively: Students may opt to submit a 20-25 page research paper on a topic of their choosing. Topics must be approved by the instructor **on or before April 29th**. Students who choose this option will have until June 11th to complete their research project, but must submit a draft by May 25th. This first draft, which must be at least 12-15 pages, will be worth 30% of the final course grade. The final draft will be worth 70% of the final course grade.

Late Papers: Except in documented cases of serious emergency, late papers will receive a 1/3-grade penalty for each calendar day the paper is late.

-Texts-

For Purchase*:

Rousseau- *The Government of Poland*
Herder- *Another Philosophy of History and Selected Political Writings*
Kant- *Political Writings*
Fichte- *Addresses to the German Nation*
Fanon- *The Wretched of the Earth*

***All** texts above are also listed on regular course reserve at Geisel Library.

On E-Reserve:

Rousseau- *On The Social Contract*
Herder- *Treatise on The Origin of Language*
Burke- *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
Mill- *Considerations on Representative Government*
Mazzini- *A Cosmopolitanism of Nations*
Acton- "Nationality"

-Schedule and Readings-

Week 1. Introduction

March 30th: No required reading

(Recommended: Rogers Brubaker, "In the Name of the Nation: Reflections on Nationalism and Patriotism," in *Citizenship Studies*, 2004)

April 1st: Rousseau – *On The Social Contract* (selections provided in class)

Week 2. Inventing the Political Nation

April 6th: Rousseau – *The Government of Poland* (pp. 1-47)

April 8th: Rousseau – *The Government of Poland* (pp. 89-116)

(Recommended: Judith Shklar, *Men and Citizens: A Study of Rousseau's Social Theory*)

Week 3. The Language of Nationalism (I.)

April 13th: Herder – *Another Philosophy of History for the Education of Mankind* (Section 1; pp. 1-32)

April 15th: Herder – *Another Philosophy of History for the Education of Mankind* (Section 2; pp. 32-68)

(Recommended: Berlin, "Herder and the Enlightenment")

Week 4. The Language of Nationalism (II.)

April 20th: Herder – *Another Philosophy of History for the Education of Mankind* (Section 3; pp. 68-97)

April 22nd: Herder – *Treatise on the Origin of Language* (selections on E-Reserve)

(Recommended: Patchen Markell, "The Distinguishing Mark," in *Bound by Recognition*)

Week 5. Enthusiasm and the Experience of Nationalism

April 27th: Kant – “An Old Question Raised Again: Is the Human Race Constantly Progressing?” from *Political Writings*

April 29th: Burke – *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (selections on E-Reserve)

Week 6. Ethnic Nations or Political Nations

May 4th: Fichte – 1) “The principle difference between the Germans and other peoples of Teutonic descent;” and 2) “Consequences of the difference that has been advanced;” from *Addresses to the German Nation* (4th and 5th addresses)

May 6th: Fichte – “What a people is in the higher sense of the word and what is love of the fatherland;” from *Addresses to the German Nation* (8th address)

(Recommended: Arash Abizadeh, “Was Fichte an Ethnic Nationalist,” in *History of Political Thought*, 2005)

Week 7. Liberal Nationalism

May 11th: Mill – 1) “That the Ideally Best Form of Government is Representative Government;” 2) “Under What Social Conditions Representative Government is Inapplicable;” and 3) “Of the Proper Functions of Representative Bodies;” all excerpted from *Considerations on Representative Government* (sections 3-5; available on E-Reserve)

May 13th: Mill – “Of Nationality, as Connected with Representative Government;” excerpted from *Considerations on Representative Government* (section 16; available on E-Reserve)

(Recommended: Yael Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism*)

Week 8. Democracy and Nationalism

May 18th: Mazzini – “On the Duties of Man” from *A Cosmopolitanism of Nations* (available on E-Reserve)

(Recommended: *Giuseppe Mazzini and the Globalization of Democratic Nationalism, 1830-1920*, edited by Bayly and Biagini)

May 20th: Lord Acton – "Nationality" (available on E-Reserve)

(Recommended: Timothy Lang, "Lord Acton and the 'Insanity of Nationality,'" in *The Journal of the History of Ideas*, 2002)

Week 9. National Consciousness and Self-Determination

May 25th: Fanon – "The Trials and Tribulations of National Consciousness," from *The Wretched of the Earth*

May 27th: Fanon – "On National Culture," from *The Wretched of the Earth*

(Recommended: Homi Bhabha, "Unsatisfied: Notes on Vernacular Cosmopolitanism," in *Text and Nation*; and Avishai Margalit and Joseph Raz, "National Self-Determination," in *The Journal of Philosophy*, 1990)

Week 10. Conclusions

June 1st: Michael Walzer – "Two Kinds of Universalism," (part I – pp. 3-25 – from "Nation and Universe," Walzer's Tanner Lecture, available here: www.tannerlectures.utah.edu/lectures/documents/walzer90.pdf)

June 3rd: Michael Walzer – "The National Question Revisited," (part II from "Nation and Universe," pp. 26-50)