

McGill University
Winter 2023

POLI 431

NATIONS AND STATES/DEVELOPED WORLD

Lecturer: Andrey Davydov
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Class meets: Tue, Thu 8:30AM-09:55AM
Class location: ARTS 150

Office hours: Thu 10:00-11:00 (Leacock 315) or
online via Zoom by appointment

MyCourses page:
<https://mycourses2.mcgill.ca/d2l/home/622105>

Teaching Assistant: Devashri Awasthi
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TA office hours: TBA

Course Description and Objectives

How did nationalism shape the modern state, and what influence does it exert today? This course offers answers from the classics and the recent scholarship in political science. It consists of four parts, each building up on the preceding. The first part outlines key theories and typologies in nationalism studies. It highlights the problematic relationship between the two ideal types of civic and ethnic nationalism, a common thread throughout the course. The second part examines nation-building, state formation, and nationalist narratives with reference to case studies. The third part focuses on nationalism in contentious politics and conflict, ranging from interstate war to anti-immigrant sentiment. It includes attempts to mollify tensions through arrangements such as federalism. The final part relates nationalism to the study of parties and social movements, with special attention to its role in the radical right.

Objectives:

- Become familiar with the main theories and debates in the study of nationalism. Relate them to other topics in political science.
- Learn to apply the theoretical lenses to case studies drawn from North America, Western Europe, the Balkans, and the former USSR.
- Be able to navigate contemporary political science, including new research in thematic sub-field journals on nation and ethnicity.

Prerequisites: POLI 211 or POLI 212 or POLI 328

Credits: 3

Course Materials and Communication

Readings: This course uses a combination of journal articles and book chapters. All readings are available as PDF files via MyCourses or via McGill Library. Recommended readings are in a separate list from the syllabus; they are not mandatory.

Slides: Lectures will be accompanied by PowerPoint presentations; the slides will be made available to students via MyCourses.

Communication: I can be reached via email and during office hours. We can also arrange a zoom meeting within the office hours, but you need to notify me in advance. If you have a lengthy question, please ask during my office hours instead of emailing. When emailing, preface the message title with “POLI 431” (for example, “POLI 431: midterm question” or “POLI 431: absence request”).

Assessment

Online Midterm Exam (30%): Timed online exam with questions on the first 6 weeks.

Group Project (20%): Write a 3000-word research paper in a group of 6-8 students, present it.

Online Final Exam (40%): Longer timed online exam with cumulative questions.

Participation (10%): Attend and participate at conferences, make an individual conference presentation.

Further instructions about the exams and the group project are available on MyCourses and will be given in class. Late submissions are subject to point reduction. Students must physically attend the conferences with the teaching assistant.

Special dates:

Feb 16 – Online mid-term.

Feb 26 – Deadline to announce groups for the group project.

March 19 – Deadline to submit group project.

Apr 4, Apr 6 – Group project presentations in class.

After Apr 14 (exact date TBA in late March) – Online final exam.

Course and University Policies

Academic Integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#) (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See [McGill’s guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).

Language of Submission: Conformément à [la Charte des droits de l’étudiant](#) de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue. (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009).

In accord with McGill University’s [Charter of Students’ Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to

courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives. (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009).

Special Needs: As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#), 514-398-6009.

Course Evaluations: End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

Copyright of Lectures: All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning ends. **You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials;** doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

*** Note: readings may be subject to minor change ***

Week 1. Jan 5 – Introduction

[Article] Mylonas, H., & Tudor, M. (2021). Nationalism: What We Know and What We Still Need to Know. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 24(1), 109–132.

Week 2. Jan 10, Jan 12 – Theories of nationalism

[Chapter] Gellner, E. "Nationalism and Modernization" in Hutchinson, J., & Smith, A. D. (1994). *Nationalism (Oxford Readers)*. Oxford University Press, 55-69.

[Chapter] Chapter 2. Smith, A. D. (2009). *Ethno-symbolism and nationalism: A cultural approach*. Routledge, 23-41.

[Article] Coakley, J. (2018). 'Primordialism' in nationalism studies: Theory or ideology? *Nations and Nationalism*, 24(2), 327–347.

Week 3. Jan 17, Jan 19 – Typology: civic, ethnic, and other varieties of nationalism

[Article] Yack, B. (1996). The myth of the civic nation. *Critical Review*, 10(2), 193–211.

[Chapter] Chapter 2. Smith, R. M. (1997). *Civic ideals: Conflicting visions of citizenship in U.S. history*. Yale University Press.

[Chapter] Chapter 7. Marx, A. W. (2005). *Faith in nation: Exclusionary origins of nationalism*. Oxford University Press.

[Article] Simonsen, K. B., & Bonikowski, B. (2020). Is civic nationalism necessarily inclusive? Conceptions of nationhood and anti-Muslim attitudes in Europe. *European Journal of Political Research*, 59(1), 114–136.

Week 4. Jan 24, Jan 26 – Nationalism in nineteenth-century Europe

[2 Chapters] Anderson, B. (2006). *Imagined communities: Reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism* (Rev. ed). Verso, 67-113. **(continued on next page)**

(continued from prev. page) [Text] Renan, E. "What Is a Nation?" in Renan, E. (2018). *What is a nation? And other political writings*. Columbia University Press.

[Chapter] Breuilly, J. "Nationalism and National Unification in Nineteenth-Century Europe." in Breuilly, J. (Ed.). (2013). *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Nationalism* (1st ed.). Oxford University Press.

Week 5. Jan 31, Feb 2 – Nationalism in historical narratives

[Article] Subotić, J. (2013) "Stories states tell: Identity, narrative, and human rights in the Balkans." *Slavic Review*, 72(2), 306-326.

[Chapter] Chapter 6. Kaufman, S. J. (2001). *Modern hatreds: The symbolic politics of ethnic war*. Cornell University Press.

[Chapter] Goode, P. "Everyday Patriotism and Ethnicity in Today's Russia" in Kolstø, P., & Blakkisrud, H. (Eds.). (2018). *Russia before and after Crimea: Nationalism and identity 2010-17*. Edinburgh University Press Ltd, 258-277.

[Article] Lubbers, M. (2019). What kind of nationalism sets the radical right and its electorate apart from the rest? Pride in the nation's history as part of nationalist nostalgia. *Nations and Nationalism*, 25(2), 449-466.

Week 6. Feb 7, Feb 9 – Nations, states, and language; Case study: nationalism in post-Soviet Russia

[Chapter] Wimmer, A. (2018). *Nation building: Why some countries come together while others fall apart*. Princeton University Press, 140-170.

[Chapter] Chapter 10. Laitin, D. D. (1998). *Identity in formation: The Russian-speaking populations in the near abroad*. Cornell University Press.

[Article] Shevel, O. (2011). Russian Nation-building from Yel'tsin to Medvedev: Ethnic, Civic or Purposefully Ambiguous? *Europe-Asia Studies*, 63(2), 179–202.

Week 7. Feb 14 – Case study: nationalism in post-Soviet Russia

[Chapter] Kolstø, P. "The ethnification of Russian nationalism" in Kolstø, P., & Blakkisrud, H. (Eds.). (2016). *The new Russian nationalism: Imperialism, ethnicity and authoritarianism 2000-15*. Edinburgh University Press, 18-46.

[Chapter] Ponarin, E. and Komin, M. "Imperial and ethnic nationalism: A dilemma of the Russian elite" in Kolstø, P., & Blakkisrud, H. (Eds.). (2018). *Russia before and after Crimea: Nationalism and identity 2010-17*. Edinburgh University Press Ltd, 50-65.

***** Feb 16 – Mid-term *****

Week 8. Feb 21, Feb 23 – War and ethnic conflict

[Article] Posen, B. (1993). Nationalism, the Mass Army, and Military Power. *International Security*, 18(2), 80–124.

[Chapter] Posen, B. (2018). "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict" in Michael E. Brown, ed., *Ethnic Conflict and International Security*. Princeton University Press, 103-124.

[2 Chapters] Chapter 2, Chapter 5. Horowitz, D. L. (2003). *The deadly ethnic riot*. University of California Press.

***** Feb 26 – Deadline to announce groups for the group project *****

***** Feb 27 to Mar 3 – Reading break, no classes *****

Week 9. Mar 7, Mar 9 – Nationalist separatism in authoritarian and democratic states

[Chapter] Chapter 6. Horowitz, D. L. (2008). *Ethnic groups in conflict: With a new preface* (2. ed., Nachdr.). Univ. of California Press.

[Chapter] “The Tide of Nationalism and Mobilization Cycles” in Beissinger, M. R. (2002). *Nationalist mobilization and the collapse of the Soviet State*. Cambridge University Press.

[Article] Meadwell, H. (1993). The Politics of Nationalism in Quebec. *World Politics*, 45(2), 203-241.

Week 10. Mar 14, Mar 16 – Federalism, multiculturalism, and diversity

[Chapter] Chapter 5. Kymlicka, W. (2001). “Minority Nationalism and Multination Federalism” in *Politics in the Vernacular*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[Article] Kymlicka, W. (2010). Testing the Liberal Multiculturalist Hypothesis: Normative Theories and Social Science Evidence. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 43(2), 257–271.

[Article] Putnam, R. D. (2007). “E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the 21st Century: The 2006 Johan Skytte Prize Lecture”, *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 137-174.

[Article] Baccini, L., & Weymouth, S. (2021). Gone For Good: Deindustrialization, White Voter Backlash, and US Presidential Voting. *American Political Science Review*, 115(2), 550-567.

***** Sunday, Mar 19 – Deadline to submit group project *****

Week 11. Mar 21, Mar 23 – The extreme right and the radical right

[Chapter] Chapter 10. Ziblatt, D. (2017). *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Modern Democracy in Europe* (1st ed.). Cambridge University Press, 334-363.

[Chapter] Chapter 2. Griffin, R. (1993). *The nature of fascism*. Routledge, 26-56.

[Article] Ignazi, P. (1992). *The silent counter-revolution: Hypotheses on the emergence of extreme right-wing parties in Europe*. *European Journal of Political Research*, 22(1), 3–34.

[Article] Brubaker, R. (2017). Between nationalism and civilizationism: the European populist moment in comparative perspective. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 40(8), 1191–1226.

[Chapter] Chapter 8. Givens, T. E. (2022). *The roots of racism: The politics of white supremacy in the US and Europe*. Bristol University Press.

Week 12. Mar 28, Mar 30 – Party systems and minority nationalism

[Article] Vachudova, M. A. (2021). Populism, Democracy, and Party System Change in Europe. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 24(1), 471–498.

[Chapter] Chapter 7. Horowitz, D. L. (2008). *Ethnic groups in conflict: With a new preface* (2. ed., Nachdr.). Univ. of California Press.

[Chapter] Chapter 3. Dawson, M. C. (2001). *Black visions: The roots of contemporary African-American political ideologies*. Univ. of Chicago Press.

[Chapter] Chapter 2. Frymer, P. (2010). *Uneasy Alliances: Race and Party Competition in America*. Princeton University Press. 3-23.

Week 13. Apr 4, Apr 6 – Group project presentation and discussion

Week 14. Apr 11 – Conclusion

***** April, exact date announced in late March – Online final exam *****