

PS 110N: Theories of Nationalism

MWF 11:15-12:05

WLH 2204

Grader: Matt Murphy

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Office Hours: F 2-4

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This course has three parts: in the first we examine some classic expressions and rejections of nationalist sentiment and aspiration. Then we evaluate two influential scholarly accounts of the origins and political significance of nationalism, by Ernest Gellner and Benedict Anderson. We end with a consideration of contemporary theoretical debate about the morality of nationalism. The major questions on our agenda are these: What do nationalists want? How do nationalists define nationhood? What are the causes and consequences of nationalist movements? Is nationalism an inevitable feature of modernity? A pre- or co-requisite to state-building? Are nationalist sentiments and aspirations compatible with liberalism? Are they a laudable expression of political commitment and solidarity or a pathological response to cultural difference?

Required Texts, available at Groundworks Books

Omar Dahbour and Micheline R. Ishay, eds., *The Nationalism Reader* (Humanities 1995)

Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Cornell 1983)

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (Verso 1983, revised 1991)

Ronald Beiner, ed., *Theorizing Nationalism* (SUNY 1999)

Evaluation

There will be three examinations.

- an in-class exam on Monday, April 24, worth 20% of your final grade
- a take-home essay exam due on Monday, May 22, worth 40%
- a final exam during the scheduled period, worth 40%

Schedule of Readings

Week One (4/3-7):

Introduction; “Vietnam: The Roots of War, part I”, Sun Yat-sen; Renan

Week Two (4/10-14):

Sieyes, Fichte, Mazzini; Mill, Acton; Weber, Ranke

Week Three (4/17-21):

Stalin, Luxemburg, Lenin; Mussolini, Hitler; Lincoln, Bourne, Garvey

Week Four (4/24-28):

Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*

Week Five (5/1-5):

Gellner, con't

Week Six (5/8-12):

Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Week Seven (5/15-19):

Anderson, con't

Week Eight (5/22-26):

Theorizing Nationalism

 chapters by Walzer, Taylor

The Nationalism Reader

 chapter by Habermas

Week Nine (5/29-6/2):

Theorizing Nationalism

 chapters by Tamir, Ignatieff, Kymlicka

Week Ten (6/5-9):

Theorizing Nationalism

 chapters by Dunn, Yack, Scruton

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