NATIONALISM: MYTH AND REALITY

History 374
Dr. David Prior
PriorD@mailbox.sc.edu
MWF: 11:15-12:05; Gambrell 302

Office Hours: Gambrell 137
MW: 12:15-1:15, or by appointment

Course Description: The beliefs that people form coherent and distinctive nations and that these nations are entitled to autonomy are central to modern history. Lying at the heart of the ideology of nationalism, these beliefs have proven to be remarkably powerful, contagious, and resilient over the last several centuries, and have garnered much attention from scholars. This course asks students to engage with major studies, lectures, and primary sources to assess how and why nationalism came to be significant in the history of so many parts of the world and remained so for such a long period of time. Four modules constitute the core of the course, each with its own essay assignment. These essay assignments ask students to write on a choice of pre-defined questions by delving into the readings and lectures for the given module. The goals of these assignments are to challenge students to work with primary and secondary sources, to cultivate their analytical writing skills, and to explore critical perspectives on the history of nationalism.

Learning Outcomes:
- Identify the important developments in the history of nationalism from c. 1700-2000.
- Assess the relationships between historical events and agents during this time and develop analyses based on these assessments.
- Evaluate primary sources in historical context.
- Communicate historical knowledge of primary and/or secondary source material through analytical, interpretive essays.
- Critique historians' analyses of key events and themes in the history of nationalism on the basis of primary source materials.

Course Guidelines: Your cumulative grade for the course is based on your papers and your participation in class. I will evaluate papers based on the clarity of their prose, their demonstrated control of assigned readings and lectures, and the persuasiveness, insightful, and scope of their interpretation. The default participation grade is 80%, which students raise by asking questions and offering their own thoughts and lower through unexcused absences. In the unlikely event that a student behaves in a manner disruptive to teaching and learning, he or she will be required to leave class and have his or her cumulative grade for the course lowered by three percentage points. Late papers will have five percentage points removed from their assignment grade at the start of each 24-hour period following their due date. Your cumulative grade will be calculated using the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>A+ = 97% and up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper # 1</td>
<td>A = 90% to 96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper # 2</td>
<td>B+ = 87% to 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper # 3</td>
<td>B = 80% to 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper # 4</td>
<td>C+ = 77% to 79%</td>
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**Plagiarism:** You must document any idea you derive from another person or source, including websites, in your paper assignments in the form of a citation, whether a footnote, endnote, or parenthetical. To take ideas from other people or sources without attribution constitutes plagiarism, regardless of your motives. As required by the University, I will submit any instance of plagiarism to the appropriate academic authority. Pending the opinion of this authority, the course policy will be to give a zero to assignments containing demonstrated instances of plagiarism.

**Schedule of Classes**

Week 1: August 20, Friday – Course Introduction

**MODULE 1: BECOMING NATIONAL**

Week 2

Monday, August 23, 2010 – Lecture: The World before Nations and Nationalism

Wednesday, August 25, 2010 – Lecture: The Birth of Nationalism

Friday, August 27, 2010 – Discussion: Patriotism, from the Ancients to the Moderns

Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Miscellany III, chapter 1, in Characteristics of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times, etc. (Gloucester Mass.: Peter Smith, 1963 [originally 1711]) vol. 2, pp. 244-251


Sir Walter Scott, “The Patriot”

Week 3

Monday, August 30, 2010 – Lecture: The Spread and Transformation of the Idea

Wednesday, September 1, 2010 – Lecture: The Spread and Transformation, Cont’d

Friday, September 3, 2010 – Discussion: Nations as Imagined Communities


Week 4

Monday, September 6, 2010 – NO CLASS; LABOR DAY

Wednesday, September 8, 2010 – Lecture: The Origins Debate

Friday, September 10, 2010 – Discussion: The Origins Debate


The Warwick Debates, at: http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/gellner/Warwick0.html

Week 5

Monday, September 13, 2010 – Lecture: The Origins Debate, Cont’d

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 – First Paper Assignment, Guidelines and Review

Friday, September 17, 2010 – Discussion: Invented Traditions and Constructed Languages


Readings from Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe (1770-1945): Texts and Commentaries, edited by Balázs Trencsényi, Michal Kopecek, et. al. (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2007)

MODULE 2: BEING NATIONAL
Week 6

Monday, September 20, 2010 – Lecture: Being National, Introduction; **FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

Wednesday, September 22, 2010 – Lecture: “The People” and their Sovereignty

Friday, September 24, 2010 – Discussion: French Revolution and the Sovereignty of the Nation

David A. Bell, “The Unbearable Lightness of Being French: Law, Republicanism, and National Identity at the end of the Old Regime,” *American Historical Review*, Vol. 106, No. 4 (October 2001), pp. 1215-1235; [available online through the library’s subscription to JSTOR](http://journals.sagepub.com/home/arv)


Week 7

Monday, September 27, 2010 – Lecture: How to Define a Contested Nation?

Wednesday, September 29, 2010 – Lecture: National Identity and the Problem of Regions

Friday, October 1, 2010 – Discussion: Nations and Regions


Week 8

Monday, October 4, 2010 – Lecture: Race and Nation in the Atlantic World

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 – Lecture: Race, Gender, and Empire

Friday, October 8, 2010 – Discussion: Race and National Identity in the Atlantic World


*Declaration of Independence*, 1776

Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” available at: http://en.wikisource.org/w/index.php?title=What_to_the_Slave_is_the_Fourth_of_July%3F&printable=yes


Week 9

Monday, October 11, 2010 – Discussion: Banal and Everyday Nationalism


Michael Billig, “Introduction,” in his Banal Nationalism (SAGE, 1995), pp. 1-12

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 – NO CLASS; SECOND PAPER DUE at 5 PM

Friday, October 15, 2010, NO CLASS; FALL BREAK

MODULE 3: NATIONALISM UNBECOMING

Week 10

Monday, October 18, 2010 – Lecture: Nationalism Unbecoming, Introduction

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 – Lecture: The Rise of Ethnonationalism and Jingoism

Friday, October 22, 2010 – Discussion: Jingoism


Emma Goldman, “Preparedness, the Road to Universal Slaughter,” in Mother Earth, Vol. 10, no. 10, December 1915, available at: http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Preparedness,_the_Road_to_Universal_Slaughter

Week 11

Monday, October 25, 2010 – Nationalism and WWI

Wednesday, October 27, 2010 – The League of Nations and WWII

Friday, October 29, 2010 – Discussion: Ethnic Cleansing in 20th-Century Europe


Week 12

Monday, November 1, 2010 – Lecture: The United Nations and the Cold War

Wednesday, November 3, 2010 – Lecture: Decolonization

Friday, November 5, 2010 – Discussion: Ethnic Cleansing in 20th-Century Europe, Cont’d


Week 13

Monday, November 8, 2010 – Lecture: Decolonization, Cont’d

Wednesday, November 10, 2010 – Lecture: Jaded Patriots

Friday, November 12, 2010 – Discussion: Anti-Colonial Nationalism


Week 14

Monday, November 15, 2010 – Lecture: The Collapse of the Soviet Union
Wednesday, November 17, 2010 – Lecture: Secession in a World of Nation-States

Friday, November 19, 2010 – Discussion:


BECOMING NON-NATIONAL

Week 15


Wednesday, November 24, 2010 – NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 26, 2010 – NO CLASS; CONTINUED GIVING OF THANKS

Week 16

Monday, November 29, 2010 – Discussion: The Future of Nations and Nationalism


Wednesday, December 1, 2010 – Lecture: Multiculturalism and Globalization

Friday, December 3, 2010: Closing Thoughts; FINAL PAPER DUE