

Politics, Ethnicity, Nationalism

Anthropology 4/511

T-TH: 12-1:50

Prof. Philip Scher
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Office Hours: Wed. 1:00-4:00pm

Course Description:

This class will explore the relationship between ethnicity, politics and nationalism from both historical and anthropological perspectives. We will deal with both a general history and genealogy of the two main terms, “ethnicity” and “nationalism,” while also addressing the way nationalism and ethnic identity construct and reproduce each other. Our readings will be both theoretical and ethnographic, giving us a chance to look at contemporary and historical examples of the politics of ethnicity.

Required Books:

Ethnicity and Nationalism Anthropological Perspectives – by Thomas Hylland-Eriksen, 2010, Pluto Press.
Nations and Nationalism: A Reader. Philip Spencer & Howard Wollman (eds.). 2005 Rutgers University Press.
Destination Culture. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett. 1998, University of California Press.

Course Requirements:

Undergraduate:

There will be **five (5) short reading tests** throughout the quarter. These tests will consist of two questions and will be only on the readings assigned for that day. However, the tests will be given at the discretion of the instructor and so there will be no advance warning on their administration. It is vital, therefore, that you come prepared and ready to discuss each day’s articles. In addition to these tests there will be a **mid-term** and a **final examination, (you will be expected to answer questions on the films as well as the readings). The short tests will constitute 20% of your grade with the mid term and final each being worth 40%.** The readings will amount to approximately 80-90 pages per week, with some weeks having slightly more, some fewer.

Graduate Students:

Graduate students taking the class will be required to write a final, 25 page paper on a topic to be determined in consultation with the professor. Graduate students will not have to take the reading tests or take the exams. In addition graduate students will be expected to do additional reading and research as part of the final project.

Week 1: Definitions Begun

Tues: No Readings

Thurs:

Eriksen: What is Ethnicity? (Chapter 1 in *Ethnicity and Nationalism*, pp.1-17)

Week 2: Theories of Ethnicity.

Tues.

Eriksen: Ethnic Classification: Us and Them (Chapter 2).

Film: Ethnic Notions

Thur:

Eriksen: The Social Organization of Cultural Distinctiveness (Chapter 3).

Week 3: Ethnicity in History and the Modern World

Tues:

Eriksen: Ethnicity in History (Chapter 5).

Thurs:

Eriksen: Ethnic Identity and Ideology (Chapter 4)

Film: The Triumph of Evil

Week 4: Ethnicity & Display.

Tues: Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara: Destination Culture: pp.17-78.

Thurs: Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara: Destination Culture: pp.79-128.

Week 5: Nationalism

Tues: **Mid-Term Exam**

Thurs:

Eriksen: Nationalism (Chapter 6).

Spencer & Wollman: Introduction

Week 6: Theories of Nationalism

Tues:

Smith, Anthony: "Ethno-Symbolism and the Study of Nationalism" pp 23-31 in Spencer & Wollman

Hastings, Adrian: "The Construction of Nationhood" pp. 32-39

Thurs:

Gellner, Ernest: "Nationalism & Modernity" pp.40-47.

Anderson, Benedict: "Imagined Communities" pp. 48-60.

Breuilly, John: "Nationalism & the State" pp. 61-73.

Week 7: Differentiating Nationalism

Tues:

Eriksen: Minorities and the State. Chapter 7

Gilroy, Paul: "Between Camps" pp. 149-162.

Thurs:

Balibar, Etienne: "Racism and Nationalism" pp. 163-172.

Spencer and Wollman: "Good and bad Nationalisms" pp. 197-217.

Week 8: Colonialism, Postcolonialism and the Nation

Tues:

Moore, Margaret: "On National Self-Determination" pp 221-236.

Chatterjee, Partha: "Whose Imagined Community?" pp. 237-247

Thurs:

Thomas, Dominic: "Constructing National and Cultural Identities in Sub-Saharan Francophone Africa" pp. 248-257.

Beissinger, Mark: "How Nationalisms Spread – Eastern Europe Adrift the tides and Cycles of Nationalist Contention" pp. 258-274.

Film: Savage Acts

Week 9: Constructing the Nation (Culturally Speaking)

Tues:

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara: "A Second life as Heritage" pp. 131-176.

Thurs:

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara: "A Second life as Heritage" pp. 176-200.

Week 10: Beyond Ethnicity and Nationalism?

Tues:

Eriksen: "That which is Not Ethnic" Chapter 8.

Mann, Michael: "Has Globalisation Ended the Rise and Rise of the Nation-State?" pp. 279-300.

Thurs:

Castles, Stephen: "Citizenship and the Other in the Age of Migration" pp. 301-316.

Held, David: "Culture and Political Community – National, Global, Cosmopolitan" pp. 317-327.