

Politics, Ethnicity & Nationalism

ANTH 411/511

Winter 2018

Monday - Wednesday 4:00-5:20pm

260 Condon

Professor: Dr. Maria Fernanda Escallón

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-2:00 pm and by appointment

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Course Description

This class will explore the relationship between ethnicity, politics, and nationalism from anthropological and historical perspectives. We will trace a general 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 give us a chance to look at contemporary and historical examples of the politics of ethnicity and the development of the concept of nationalism. We will also analyze recent new articles, films, and media reports related to our core concepts, and examine the meanings and political significance of nationalism and ethnicity today.

Course Structure and Expectations

This course is designed as a seminar and will focus on the discussion of the assigned readings, class presentations, and critical discussion. You must come prepared to talk intelligently about the materials, with ample evidence that you have read and processed the readings. It will not go well for you if you fall behind in the readings. The course is designed to foster qualitative research, apply methodological tools from the social sciences, practice classroom discussion, improve public presentation, and strengthen written exposition skills. Students are encouraged to reflect on the theoretical, methodological, and ethical implications of the assigned texts. I expect undergraduates to be as involved in the discussions as graduate students and that all will participate actively and with mutual respect and support.

Learning Outcomes

- Critically analyze the concepts learned in class, and be familiar with their history and genealogy.
- Understand the usefulness and limitations of the core concepts, and identify how they have changed in meaning and political significance through time.

- Generate connections between theoretical discussions from readings/class and current debates/events happening in our world today.
- Identify the connections between the concept of nationalism and the construction of ethnic identity.

Grading Guidelines

Undergraduate Students:

1. Attendance & Participation: 10% of grade

Attendance will be taken in every class. Students may have 2 unexcused absences without penalty during the term. For every class missed thereafter, 1/3 a letter grade will be deducted from the participation grade. Excused absences are permitted with an appropriate letter (e.g. note from doctor). If the student will be absent for an extended period for a documented reason, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance in writing (via email). In case of emergency, update the instructor as soon as possible.

2. In-class Short Reading Quizzes (4): 20% of grade

There will be four (4) short reading tests throughout the quarter. These tests will consist of two questions and will be only on the readings assigned for that day. There will be no advance warning on their administration and will be given at the discretion of the instructor. It is vital, therefore, that you come prepared and ready to discuss each day's articles.

3. Film Response: 15% of grade

We will watch several films in this course. The student must choose one of these films to write a 2-page response (1.5 space). The response must include a short summary of the film, the questions it raised for the student, the ways in which the film connects with the topics discussed in class, and make explicit reference to the readings assigned for that week. The response must be submitted exactly one week after the in-class screening of the chosen film.

4. Midterm Exam: 25% of grade

The Midterm Exam will be in class. Students are expected to answer questions on the films as well as the readings. The exam will be cumulative and the specifics of the test will be discussed in class one week before the exam.

5. Final Group Presentation: 30% of grade

During the second half of the course, students will work in groups on a single topic related to the course content and chosen by the students. The topics will be selected from recent news reports or current events related to class materials. The instructions and format of the group work and final presentation will be discussed in class by week 5. Students will be evaluated by the professor and by their peers according to a grading criteria designed jointly.

Graduate Students: (see above for detailed explanations)

1. **Attendance & Participation: 10% of grade**
2. **In-class short reading quizzes (4): 10% of grade**
3. **Documentary Response: 15% of grade**
4. **Midterm exam: 20% of grade**
5. **Group presentation: 25% of grade**
6. **Final essay: 20% of grade**

Graduate students will work on an additional paper based on their group project. This 5-7 page essay will address the same topic chosen for the group work and incorporate additional research material and insights that could not be addressed during the presentation. The specifics of the essay will be discussed during class.

Grading Scale

A+ = 98-100%	A = 93-97.9%	A- = 90-92.9%
B+ = 87-89.9%	B = 83-86.9%	B- = 80-82.9%
C+ = 77-79.9%	C = 73-76.9%	C- = 70-72.9%
D+ = 67-69.9%	D = 63-66.9%	D- = 60-62.9%
F = < 59.9%		

If the class is taken P/NP, a C- or higher is required to pass the course.

Grading Rubric

A: student demonstrates exceptional understanding of and ability to analyze well the course material; an outstanding performance relative to that required to meet course requirements.

B: student demonstrates substantial understanding of the course material, including analytical procedures and theoretical concepts; performance is significantly above that required to meet course requirements.

C: student does the assignments but not more, demonstrating reasonable knowledge of the course material; demonstrates adequate understanding of content and meets course requirements.

D: student demonstrates minimal effort to complete the assignments and/or limited understanding of the class material; does not fully meet the course requirements.

F: student makes little or no effort to complete the assignments and/or limited understanding of the class material; poor written communication skills; performance does not meet the course requirements.

Late Assignments

Late assignments are not accepted in this course and will receive a failing grade. Students must notify the professor as soon as possible if a serious issue arises that prevents them from completing an assignment on time. Late assignments will be accepted only in the event of documented accidents, family emergencies, or illnesses. No make-up examinations will be granted without proper documentation. There is no extra credit offered in this course. If the student is facing a serious issue that intervenes with their academic performance, please notify the professor as soon as possible.

Incomplete Policy

Incompletes will be given only for extreme circumstances such as a documented critical illness (mental or physical). If there is a serious issue that comes up and causes delays in the student's assignments or interrupts attendance, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the professor immediately. The University does not allow incompletes to be given retroactively.

If a student registers for the class and does not complete the assignments and does not communicate and attain the professor's agreement for the specific terms for granting an incomplete, the student will be given credit for the work turned in and receive an F for work not turned in. The official University grading policy can be found at http://registrar.uoregon.edu/incomplete_policy.

Computer and Other Electronic Devices Policy

The use of laptops and other electronic devices in class is discouraged. This can be distracting and we want to create an environment that encourages engaged learning. Please refrain from using cell phones and have them in silent mode before class starts.

Communication and Email Message Policy

Official course communication will occur in lectures and through email or Canvas. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced via Canvas. Students are responsible for keeping up-to-date with the course information. Please contact the professor during office hours if you have any questions regarding the class content or structure. Emails received during the weekend will only be answered until Monday morning.

Accessible Education and Accommodations

The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity in education and accepts diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. Disability is recognized as an aspect of diversity integral to the university and to society. Accommodations will be made for all students needing them in consultation with that student and any other support team members. Contact the Office of Accessible Education (164 Oregon Hall) if you are not already documented but wish accommodation. Please notify the professor during the first week of class of any necessary accommodations.

Required Texts

All required readings will be posted on Canvas.

Most readings will be from:

- Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. 2010. *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Anthropological Perspectives*. Third edition. London; New York: Pluto Press.
- Spencer, Philip, and Howard Wollman. 2005. *Nations and Nationalism: A Reader*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.
- Coakley, John. 2012. *Nationalism, Ethnicity and the State: Making and Breaking Nations*. London; Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Academic Honesty

The University Student Conduct Code is available at <http://conduct.uoregon.edu>. Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication (see website for definitions and further information). Students should always properly acknowledge and cite all sources of information, including documents, images, or photographs. Plagiarism is taking and using as one's own the ideas, concepts, analysis and writings of another without giving appropriate credit through proper documentation. "Proper documentation" includes quotation marks, foot- or endnote citations, or noting that a sentence or paragraph is paraphrased (with references to where the original information was found). Providing assistance to another student who is attempting to cheat or plagiarize is also considered academically dishonest.

If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the student's obligation to clarify the question prior to taking any action. Principles of academic honesty and professional ethics also apply to any use of computers associated with the class. This includes observing all software licensing requirements and respecting copyrights of intellectual property published on the Internet.

The following actions may result in disciplinary sanction according to the university's academic honesty policies:

- Evidence of collusion when expected to submit individual work (working with someone else).
- Evidence of plagiarism (using someone else's work without proper citation).
- Multiple submissions (submitting the same paper for more than one class).

Plagiarism will receive a failing grade

Additional Help

If you will be working off campus, you will need to download the UO VPN link (virtual private network).

If you have technical issues with any part of the course, contact the helpdesk (541-346-HELP).

I am unable to read papers and assignments in advance. However, there are a number of campus resources to help students. For help with citing sources or developing arguments visit the Teaching and Learning Center: <http://tlc.uoregon.edu/subjects/writing/>.

Open Learning Environment

The intention and structure of university level courses are to provide open, thoughtful forums for a wide variety of topics and ideas. The University of Oregon affirms and actively promotes the right of all individuals to equal opportunity in education and employment at this institution without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other consideration not directly and substantively related to effective performance. We will value each class member's experience and contributions and communicate disagreements respectfully. Please notify the professor if you feel any aspect of this course undermines these principles in any way.

Sexual Harassment and Violence

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based bullying and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, know that help and support are available. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at <https://safe.uoregon.edu/services> for more information.

READINGS AND SCHEDULE

All readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned.

WEEK 1: DEFINITIONS - ETHNICITY

Monday January 8:

Introduction to the class. No readings

Wednesday January 10:

Eriksen: What is Ethnicity? (Chapter 1 in Ethnicity and Nationalism)

WEEK 2: THEORIES OF ETHNICITY

Monday January 15:

Holiday no classes

Wednesday January 17:

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

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

Film: Ethnic Notions

WEEK 3: ETHNICITY IN HISTORY AND THE MODERN WORLD

Monday January 22:

Eriksen: Ethnic Identity and Ideology (Chapter 4)

Wednesday January 24:

Eriksen: Ethnicity in History (Chapter 5)

WEEK 4: ETHNICITY IN ETHNOGRAPHIC WRITING

Monday January 29:

Fresh Fruit Broken Bodies: Introduction and Chapter 3

In-class course assessment

Explanation group work and definition of groups and topics

Film: The Triumph of Evil

Wednesday January 31:

Mid-Term Exam

WEEK 5: NATIONALISM – Part 1

Monday February 5:

Eriksen: Nationalism (Chapter 6)

Coakley: Introduction: The Study of Nationalism

Wednesday February 7:

Coakley: Nationalism, Race and Gender (Chapter 2)

Coakley: Nationalism and Language (Chapter 3)

Week 6: NATIONALISM – Part 2

Monday February 12:

Coakley: Nationalism and Religion (Chapter 4)

Wednesday February 14:

Coakley: Nationalism and History (Chapter 5)

WEEK 7: THEORIES OF NATIONALISM

Monday February 19:

Spencer & Wollman: Introduction

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

Hastings, Adrian: "The Construction of Nationhood" pp. 32-39 in Spencer & Wollman

Wednesday February 21:

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

Anderson, Benedict: "Imagined Communities" pp. 48-60 in Spencer & Wollman
Breuilly, John: "Nationalism & the State" pp. 61-73 in Spencer & Wollman

WEEK 8: DIFFERENTIATING NATIONALISM

Monday February 26:

Eriksen: Minorities and the State (Chapter 7)
Coakley: Nationalism and State Structure (Chapter 10)
Gilroy, Paul: "Between Camps" pp. 149-162 in Spencer & Wollman

Wednesday February 28:

Balibar, Etienne: "Racism and Nationalism" pp. 163-172 in Spencer & Wollman
Spencer and Wollman: "Good and Bad Nationalisms" pp. 197-217 in Spencer & Wollman

WEEK 9: BEYOND ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM

Monday March 5:

Eriksen: The Non-Ethnic (Chapter 9)
Coakley: Nation and State in Perspective (Chapter 11)

Wednesday March 7:

Mann, Michael: "Has Globalization Ended the Rise and Rise of the Nation-State?"
pp. 279-300 in Spencer & Wollman
Castles, Stephen: "Citizenship and the Other in the Age of Migration" pp. 301-316 in
Spencer & Wollman
Held, David: "Culture and Political Community – National, Global, Cosmopolitan" pp. 317-
327 in Spencer & Wollman
Film: Savage Acts

WEEK 10: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Monday March 12:

Presentations groups 1-3

Wednesday March 14:

Presentations groups 4-6