

Vesalius College

**POL342E**

Nationalism & Ethnicity in Contemporary Europe

Tommaso Chiamparino

Summer Semester 2011

**Course Schedule**

TBA

**Office hours and contact information**

Office hours: TBA

Office: TBA

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**Course Description**

This course explores the relationship between nationalism, ethnicity and politics in contemporary Europe. In the first part of the course, the students will be familiarized with the main theoretical debates in the study of nationalism. During this first part students will acquire the necessary analytical perspectives, concepts and tools for the investigation of the phenomenon in particular cases. A reference will be made to the interconnections between regionalist tensions and the European Union, as well as to the role played by the EU in ethno-nationalist conflicts in the European periphery. We will cover the following topics:

- What are nationalism and ethnicity and how have they been studied?
- The origins of nations & national identity (primordialism vs. modernism, ethnosymbolism and other perspectives)
- Is there “good” and “bad” nationalism? (West vs. East, cultural vs. political, civic vs. ethnic; liberal vs. illiberal)
- The link between nationalism and democracy
- Democratic solutions for ethnic tensions within nation states (federalism & consociationalism)
- Ethnic mobilization: peace vs. violence
- What is beyond the nation-state? (European integration; cosmopolitanism; transnationalism)
- Regionalism, identity issues and the European Union
- The EU and ethno-nationalist conflicts in the European periphery

The second part of the course will apply these theories and concepts to the analysis of several nationalist movements and ethno-nationalist conflicts. The cases proposed for discussion are the following:

- Spain (Catalonia, Basque Country)
- UK (Northern Ireland, Scotland)
- Belgium (Flanders)
- France (Corsica)
- Former USSR (Georgia)
- Former Yugoslavia (Bosnia, Kosovo)
- Italy (Northern Italy)

### **Prerequisite**

There are no formal prerequisites, but students will find it helpful to have already taken at least one course in politics or history.

### **Objectives**

By the end of this class students will be acquainted with:

- the main theoretical debates in the study of nationalism
- a series of cases of nationalist movements and conflicts based on ethno-nationalist claims
- the effects of nationalism/regionalism within the EU as well as the role of the EU in nationalist conflicts
- management of and solutions to ethnic conflicts

They should also be able to:

- identify and make good use of additional research sources on nationalism and ethnicity
- develop analytical criteria for comparison across cases
- develop theoretically and empirically grounded research on nationalist and ethnic conflicts and their political stakes and consequences

### **Teaching methods**

The class is based on lectures, in-class discussions and student presentations. A number of guest-speakers with expertise on particular topics will also occasionally be invited. Students are expected to read the corresponding reading material for each class and to actively engage in class discussions.

### **Assignments**

The assignments for this class are as follows:

- One oral presentation (counting for 10% of the final grade). Topics for the presentations will be agreed with the lecturer. A short synthesis of this presentation (or the powerpoint slides) will have to be submitted;

- One written assignment of around 3,000 words (counting for 40% of the final grade). Ideally, papers should focus on one empirical case and analyze it in relation to one (or more) of the theoretical debates in the literature. The lecturer will offer guidance to the choice of the paper topic.

## Assessment

Evaluation:

- Presence and participation in class: 10 %
- Oral presentation: 10%
- Paper: 40 %
- Final Exam: 40 %

Grades will be given both on a 0-20 scale and in a letter grade. The computation of the final grade will be based on the 0-20 scale (which gives a more accurate outcome). Conversion between the two systems of grading will follow the following table. Scores on the 0/20 grade will always be converted in the letter grade that approaches most closely the score.

| Grade | Grade points | Score (./20) | Score (./20) rounded to nearest .5 | Score (as a %) |
|-------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| A     | 4,00         | 17,00        | 17,0                               | 85%            |
| A-    | 3,67         | 16,22        | 16,0                               | 81%            |
| B+    | 3,33         | 15,44        | 15,5                               | 77%            |
| B     | 3,00         | 14,67        | 14,5                               | 73%            |
| B-    | 2,67         | 13,89        | 14,0                               | 69%            |
| C+    | 2,33         | 13,11        | 13,0                               | 66%            |
| C     | 2,00         | 12,33        | 12,5                               | 62%            |
| C-    | 1,67         | 11,56        | 11,5                               | 58%            |
| D+    | 1,33         | 10,78        | 11,0                               | 54%            |
| D     | 1,00         | 10,00        | 10,0                               | 50%            |
| F     | 0,00         | 7,67         | Below 10                           | 38%            |

## Required reading

A complete reader with the texts to be discussed in class (see section below) will be made available on “Point Carré”.

## Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity. Students caught receiving or giving illicit aid during an examination will receive an “F” for the examination. Documented plagiarism of a paper will be given a “D” in instances of one or two sentences, and an “F” in more severe cases, and no revision will be allowed in either instance. Following the College policy, cheating and plagiarism cases will be communicated in writing to the Associate Dean for Students and submitted to the Student Conduct Committee for disciplinary action.

## Course outline

### Week 1

#### Topics

**#1: Nations, ethnicity & nationalism**

**#2: The origins of nations**

**#3: Theories of nationalism: primordialism, modernism, ethnosymbolism**

**#4: Civic vs. ethnic nationalism**

#### Read:

Barrington, Lowell (1997) “«Nation» and «Nationalism»: The Misuse of Key Concepts in Political Science, PS: Political Science & Politics, December Issue, pp. 712-716

Eriksen, Thomas (2005) “Ethnicity and Nationalism”, in Spencer, Philip and Howard Wollman (eds) *Nations and Nationalism: A Reader*, New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, pp. 1-19

Özkirimli, Umut (2000) “Primordialism” (ch. 3), in *Theories of Nationalism*, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave, pp. 64-74

Gellner, Ernest (1994) “Nationalism and Modernization”, in Hutchinson, John and Anthony D. Smith (eds.) *Nationalism*, Oxford-New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 55-63

Anderson, Benedict (1991), “The Origins of National Consciousness” in *Imagined Communities*, London: Verso, pp. 37-46

Smith, Anthony (1994) “The Origins of Nations”, in Hutchinson, John and Anthony D. Smith (eds.) *Nationalism*, Oxford-New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 147-154

Brown, David (1999) “Are there good and bad nationalisms?”, *Nations and Nationalism* 5, no. 2, pp. 281-302

### Week 2

#### Topics:

**#1 Is nationalism endemic to democracy?**

**#2 The logic of self-determination & secession**

**#3 Multicultural societies, minority rights and institutional solutions (federalism and consociationalism)**

**#4 Violence & war**

#### Read:

Spencer, Philip and Howard Wollman (2002) “Nationalism and Democracy” in *Nationalism: A Critical Introduction*, London-Thousand Oaks-New Dehli: Sage, pp. 121-156

Buchanan, Allen (1994) “Democracy and Secession”, in Moore, Margaret (ed.) *National Self-Determination and Secession*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.14-33

Kymlicka, Will (2002) “Multiculturalism and Minority Rights: West and East”, *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe*, Issue 4, pp. 1-26

Lijphart, Arend (1985) “Non-Majoritarian Democracy: A Comparison of Federal and Consociational Theories”, in *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, 15(2), pp. 3-15

Horowitz, Donald L. (2002) “Constitutional design; proposals versus processes”, in A. Reynolds, *The architecture of democracy. Constitutional design, conflict management, and democracy*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp. 15-36

Van Evera, Stephen (1994) “Hypotheses on Nationalism and War”, in *International Security*, 18:4, pp. 5-39

Hechter, Michael (1995) "Explaining nationalist violence" *Nations and Nationalism* 1:1, pp. 53-68

### **Week 3**

#### **Topics:**

**#1 Regionalism in the European Union**

**#2 Issues of (national and sub-national) identity in the EU**

**#3 Autonomist parties in the EU**

**#4 The future of the EU: beyond nation states?**

#### **Read:**

Cram, Laura (2009), "Identity and European integration: diversity as a source of integration", *Nations and Nationalism* 15 (1), pp. 109–128

Citrin, Jack and John Sides (2004), "More than nationals: How Identity Choice Matters in the New Europe", in Herrmann, Richard K., Risse, Thomas, & Brewer Marilyn B. (eds.), *Transnational Identities: Becoming European in the EU*, Lanham MD: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 161-182.

De Winter, Lieven, Margarita Gómez-Reino, Peter Lynch (2006), "Introduction: Autonomist Parties in European Politics", in De Winter, Lieven Margarita Gómez-Reino, Peter Lynch (eds), *Autonomist Parties in Europe: Identity Politics and the Revival of the Territorial Cleavage*, Barcelona: Institut de Ciències Polítiques i Socials, pp. 13-30.

Hjerm, Mikael and Annette Schnabel (2010), "Mobilizing Nationalist Sentiments: Which Factors Affect Nationalist Sentiments in Europe?", *Social Science Research* 39, pp. 527–539.

### **Weeks 4**

#### **Topics:**

**#1 The role of the EU in ethno-nationalist conflicts**

**#2 Conditionality and minority rights**

**#3 Nationalism and ethnic conflicts in the European periphery: the Western Balkans**

**#4 Summing up and revision before presentations and exam**

#### **Read:**

Noutcheva, Gergana, Nathalie Tocci, Bruno Coppieters, Tamara Kovziridze, Michael Emerson and Michel Huysseune (2004), "Europeanization and Secessionist Conflicts: Concepts and Theories", *Journal of Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe*, 1, pp. 1-35.

Borzel, Tanja A. and Thomas Risse (2009) "Venus Approaching Mars? The European Union's Approaches to Democracy Promotion in Comparative Perspective", in Magen, Amichai, Thomas Risse and Michael A. McFaul (eds.), *Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law. American and European Strategies*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 34-60.

Banac, Ivo (2009) "What happened in the Balkans (or Rather ex Yugoslavia)?", *East European Politics and Societies* 23, n. 4, pp. 461-478;

### **Week 5 - 6**

Presentations / case studies / guest lectures (to be determined)