IR 132
NATIONALISM AND ETHNIC CONFLICT
Spring 2015
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:50
Maginnes 270

Course Description: The course focuses on the phenomenon of nationalism and its political consequences. It consists of four parts – theories about the origins of nationalism, theories linking nationalism to violent conflict, a set of case studies that allow us to evaluate the competing theories, and the debates on the possible methods for dealing with the problem of ethno-nationalist violence.

Requirements: There will be two take-home papers, and a final exam. The first of the two papers will be a 5-6-page essay in response to a question about a theoretical controversy. The second will be a 10-page paper about some conflict not covered in class, which you will have to analyze with the help of the theoretical tools acquired in class. The final exam, which will be in the multiple-choice format, will test students’ mastery of the literature. There will be no make-up exams and no extensions for the papers.

Grades:
1st paper – 20%
2nd paper – 40%
Final exam – 30%
Class participation – 10%

Expectations: Students will be expected do the readings in advance. Even though the class will be in a lecture format, the lectures will have a considerable interactive component. The quality of that interaction will depend on intelligent and active engagement by students, which in turn will depend on how well-prepared they come to class. Students will also be expected to attend all the lectures. More than two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for class participation.
**Readings:** The following books are available for purchase in the bookstore and on reserve at the library:


Everything else will be available electronically.

**Office Hours:** Mondays 4:00-6:00 PM.

**Accommodation for students with disability:** Students who have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodation should contact both the instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center 212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must obtain documentation from Academic Support Services before accommodation can be granted.
Schedule

PART I: NATIONALISM

January 19: Introduction

- No readings.

January 21: Defining terms

- Ernest Renan, “Qu’est-ce qu’une nation?” in Hutchinson and Smith, eds., Nationalism, pp. 17-18.
- Clifford Geertz, “Primordial and Civic Ties,” in Hutchinson and Smith, eds., Nationalism, pp. 29-34.
- Walker Connor, “A Nation is a Nation, is a State, is an Ethnic Group, is a….,” in Hutchinson and Smith, eds., Nationalism, pp. 36-46.

January 26: Modernization and Nationalism I


January 28: Modernization and Nationalism II

- Michael Hechter, Containing Nationalism, chs. 3-4 (pp. 35-69).
February 2: The Ethnic Origins of Nations I

- Pierre Van Den Berghe, “A Socio-Biological Perspective,” in Hutchinson and Smith, eds., Nationalism, pp. 96-103.
- Azar Gat with Alexander Yakobson, Nations, pp. 1-18, chs. 2-3 (pp. 27-66).

February 4: Ethnic Origins of Nations II

- Azar Gat with Alexander Yakobson, Nations, ch. 4. (pp. 67-131).

PARTII: NATIONALISM AND CONFLICT

February 9: The Idea of the Nation-State and Violence


February 11: Elite Manipulation and Ethnic Conflict


February 16: Varieties of Nationalism and Violence

- Michael Hechter, Containing Nationalism, ch. 5 (pp. 71-93).
February 18: The Content of Group Identity and Conflict


February 23: Anarchy and Ethnic Conflict


February 25: Commitment Problems and Ethnic Conflict


March 2: Ethnic Stratification, Colonialism, and Ethnic Conflict.

PART III: CASE STUDIES

March 16, 18: Yugoslavia

- Reread V.P. Gagnon, Jr., “Ethnic Nationalism and International Conflict: The Case of Serbia.”
- Susan Woodward, Balkan Tragedy: Chaos and Dissolution after the Cold War (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1995), chs. 3-4 (pp. 47-113)
- Stuart Kaufman, Modern Hatreds, ch. 6.
- Jack Snyder, From Voting to Violence, pp. 204-220.

March 23, 25: The Armenian-Azerbaijani Conflict

- Stuart Kaufman, Modern Hatreds, ch. 3.

March 30, April 1: Rwanda

- Reread, Stuart Kaufman, “Symbolic Politics or Rational Choice.”

April 6, 8: Syria

PART IV: SOLUTIONS

April 13, 15: Intervention


April 20, 22: Consociationalism and Ethnofederalism


April 27, 29: Partition and Homogenization