COURSE TITLE: THEORIES OF NATIONALISM

Course professors

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LANGUAGE: english

HOURS:
Total: 12 lectures + 12 seminar
Weekly: 2 hours

ECTS POINTS: 5

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The aim of this course is to give the student a clear understanding of the concept of nationalism, and the understanding how to use it by itself or in comparison with other political science concepts.

The course will discuss in detail about the major contemporary theories of nationalism and key concepts such as 'nation', 'nationalism', 'ethnicity' and 'identity'. Students will also have the opportunity to examine how contemporary social and political changes are affecting the future of nationalism. Also, they will understand how globalization affects sovereignty, national identity, democracy and the nation state.

Furthermore, once they pass this course, students will be able to use their knowledge in debates, theory and practical assessment of existing political problems.

SUMMARY AND CONTENT OF THE COURSE:

Summary:

The course will examine the main contemporary theories of nationalism, analyze key concepts and discuss classical debates in the study of nationalism. First, we will discuss why nationalism is still an important moving force in contemporary politics and why its scholarly study is still relevant. We will then overview and assess the major systematic typologies of nationalism, and examine how key concepts, such as ‘nation’, ‘nationalism’, ‘ethnicity’, 'identity' and related terms are used by different authors. The second part of the course will
discuss the main theories (modernism, constructivism, primordialism, postmodernism) explaining the emergence of nationalism. Next, we will briefly examine how national and ethnic symbolism are reproduced. The last class will examine contemporary social and political changes that affect the future of nationalism, and will try to assess how globalization affects sovereignty, national belonging, democracy and the nation state.

Content of the course:

1. Introduction: Why does nationalism still matter?
2. Philosophical origins of nationalist doctrines
3. The rise of national movements: compensation, construction, affirmation
4. Typologies of nationalism
5. Imagined communities
6. Primordialism and etno-symbolism
7. Nation, deconstruction and psychoanalysis
8. Beyond nationalism?
9. Nationalism and state-building
10. Old and new nationalisms and democracy in Europe
11. Nationalism and democracy
12. Beyond the nation state?

REQUIREMENTS:

Students registered for this course are expected to attend classes and participate in class discussions. All students must read all the readings, and give two presentations. In-class presentations should sum up and critically analyze the argument of the assigned readings. Presentations are expected to contextualize ideas by drawing on literature not listed in the syllabus, and students are encouraged to assess the implications of the presented theories through relevant case studies. Students are to prepare 3,000 word essays offering critical analysis of the topics and the literature discussed during the course.

EXAMINATION METHOD:

There will be a written examination, which will assess the students’ understanding of what has been learned. The exam will be divided into two smaller parts (colloquiums). If a student doesn't pass both of them, they will have to take the entire exam during the regular examination period.

REQUIRED READING:


Will Kymlicka and M. Opalski, eds., Can Liberal Pluralism be Exported?, Oxford 2001


Miroslav Hroch: Nationalism and national movements: comparing the past and present of Central and Eastern Europe, in: Nations and Nationalism 2, 1996, 35-44

Schedule and readings

1. Introduction. Why does nationalism still matter?

Readings


2. Philosophical origins of nationalist doctrines

Readings


Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Considerations on the Government of Poland 1772.


Ernest Renan: What is a nation? In Dahbour, Omar/ Ishay, Micheline, (ur.), Humanities The Nationalism Reader, Press, Athlantic Highlands, N.J.


Readings


Miroslav Hroch: Nationalism and national movements : comparing the past and present of Central and Eastern Europe, in: Nations and Nationalism 2, 1996, 35-44


4. Typologies of nationalism

Readings


5. Imagined Communities

Readings


6. Primordialism and Ethno-symbolism

Readings


7. Nation, Deconstruction and Psychoanalysis

Readings


8. Beyond Nationalism?

Readings


9. Nationalism and State-Building

Readings


10. Old and New Nationalisms and Democracy in Europe

*Readings*


Renata Salecl: *The Spoils of Freedom: Psychoanalysis, feminism and Ideology after the fall of Socialism*, Rouledge, 1994


11. Nationalism and Democracy

*Readings*


Viktor Zaslavsky, Nationalism and Democratic Transition in Postcommunist Societies, in: *Daedalus* 121, 1992, 97-121


Readings


12. Beyond the Nation State?

Readings


QUALITY ASSUARNE MONITORING:

Quality will be controlled through a standard procedure organised by the University of Zagreb an the Faculty of political science. The satisfaction with the course will be evaluated through an online internet survey within the Eduneta system, at he end of the course. The data is automatically processed by the system, and the results are given to the professors after the exam. The surveys consist of questions that deal with the general assessment of quality of the entire course as well as qualitative response questions that allow the student to critique the course and suggest ways to improve it.