

**University of North Carolina-Greensboro**  
**Fall 2013**  
**HIS 208-03: Nation States and National Identities**  
**Tuesdays, 6:00-8:50 p.m.**

**Instructor Information:**

**Jason Stroud**

**Office: MHRA 2106**

**Office hours: T 4:45-5:45**

**Email: [j\\_stroud@uncg.edu](mailto:j_stroud@uncg.edu)**

**Course Description**

The idea of nationalism and concepts of the state have been powerful and pervasive in the modern era. In this course, we will investigate the origins, the different manifestations, and the ramifications of these ideas. Central to this course will be the idea that national identities are not fixed or unchanging, but rather have changed over time along with specific historical conditions and as a consequence of human agency. In order to make sense of these difficult concepts, we will explore a number of scholarly debates through secondary sources, as well as evaluate a host of primary sources.

**Course Objectives**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop definitions of nationalism, national identities, and nation-states.
- Trace the development of the concept of nationalism over time and in a number of different contexts.
- Assess the effects of nationalism.
- Use historical thinking and effective writing to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources.
- Formulate a coherent and well-reasoned argument using historical evidence in a written essay.

**Assigned Readings**

All required readings will be available on Blackboard, through e-reserves, or online at the sites indicated below.

**Course Requirements:**

*Class Participation 15%*

Class participation is an essential part of the course. You are required to read and reflect on materials that we have read, and I will expect you to contribute to class discussions. Your participation grade will reflect the extent to which you do so, as well as the constructiveness and quality of your contributions. Your participation grade will also reflect attendance in that every absence after your second one will result in 20 points being deducted from your participation average.

### *Weekly Reflections 20%*

Each week you will be responsible for submitting a reflection on the week's readings in the designation discussion forum on the course site on Blackboard. Reflections should above all demonstrate that you have read and thought hard about the readings, even if you don't feel like you fully understood them. More specifically, they should reference your understanding of the point or argument of the reading (whether it is a secondary or a primary source) and, if there are two or more readings, how they are related (or not) to each other. Reflections will be graded according to a rubric that will be available on Blackboard under Course Documents. Reflections will be due no later than midnight on the night before the class (i.e. 11:59 Monday nights.)

### *Midterm Exam 20%*

The midterm exam will be "take-home," and will include several short answer questions, to be answered in a page or so, as well as a single longer essay question, which should be around three pages. I will assign the questions at least 10 days in advance, and you will turn them in via SafeAssign before 11:59 October 11.

### *Article Review 15%*

You will choose one scholarly article pertaining to nationalism, national identity, the nation-state, or another concept pertaining to the course from a list chosen by me. You will then read the article and critique it, discussing its argument and assessing the author's success in defending it. You should also relate the article to our discussions and other readings in class. Your review should be 3-4 pages long. Article Reviews are due (via SafeAssign) by 11:59 November 18.

### *Final Exam 30%*

Your final exam will be similar in format to your midterm in that it will require you to answer a few short answer questions. It will be slightly longer, however in that you will have two longer essays that ask you to answer broad questions raised during the course. The longer essays will thus be cumulative, while the short answer questions will only be drawn from material after the midterm.

## **Course Structure**

Generally, each class meeting will follow the same structure. The first hour or so will consist of a lecture, while the second part of class will consist of discussion and other activities involving the week's readings. This, along with the fact that you are responsible for weekly reflections, makes it essential for you to complete the readings before class. Each student should bring a copy of the readings (either electronic or paper) to class each week.

## **Additional Policies**

*Late Work:* Of course, all work should be turned in on time. If, however, for some reason you cannot get an assignment turned in by the time it is due, you should contact me via email beforehand. Late work will be penalized, and I will not accept it at all if you have not spoken/emailed me about it.

*Technology in the Classroom:* I allow (indeed, encourage) you to use laptops, Ipads, and other devices in the classroom with the understanding that they will be used for course-related

activities (e.g. reading documents, taking notes, etc.) Using them for other purposes, however, is disruptive and disrespectful. If you do so, you will receive a warning for the first offense. After the second offense, you will be counted absent for that evening's class.

*Plagiarism:* You are expected to follow the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which can be found at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>. The consequences of plagiarism or other breaches of academic integrity depend on the severity of the offense and other factors, but I will report all such offenses to the Dean of Students.

## **Schedule of Classes and Readings**

(Please note that the schedule of readings and topics is always subject to change. Changes will always, however, be announced in class at least a week ahead of time.)

### **August 20**

#### **Introduction, no reading**

Lecture and Discussion: "What is History?"

### **August 27**

Lecture: "What is Nationalism?"

Reading: Warwick Debates on Nationalism:

Anthony D. Smith's Opening Statement at <http://gellnerpage.tripod.com/Warwick.html>

Ernest Gellner's reply at <http://gellnerpage.tripod.com/Warwick2.html>

### **September 3**

Lecture: "National Identity before the Modern Era"

Reading: Susan Reynolds, "The Idea of the Nation as a Political Community," in Len Scales and Oliver Zimmer, eds., *Power and the Nation in European History* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005) 54-66 (on e-reserve)

"The Declaration of Arbroath" at <http://www.nas.gov.uk/downloads/declarationArbroath.pdf>

### **September 10**

Lecture: "The Rise of the Nation State and National Consciousness"

Reading: Voltaire, "Patrie" at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1752voltaire.asp>

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-8, 37-46 (e-reserve).

### **September 17**

Lecture: "National Identities and Nationalism in the Age of Revolutions"

Reading: "Haitian Declaration of Independence" at

<http://today.duke.edu/showcase/haitideclaration/declarationtext.html>

Lynn Hunt, "The Rhetoric of Revolution in France," *History Workshop* 15 (Spring, 1983) 78-94 (on JStor)

### **September 24**

Lecture: "The Industrial Revolution, Modern Capitalism, and Nationalism"

Reading: Geller, *Nations and Nationalism*, Ch. 3 (e-reserve)

### **October 1**

Lecture: "Liberal Nationalism"

Reading: Giuseppe Mazzini, "On Nationality" (1852) at

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1852mazzini.asp>

John Stuart Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, Ch. 2 ("The Criterion of a Good Form of Government") at [http://www.constitution.org/jsm/rep\\_gov.htm](http://www.constitution.org/jsm/rep_gov.htm)

### **October 8**

Lecture: "The Transformation of Nationalism, 1870-1918"

Reading: Eric Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780*, Ch. 4 (e-reserve)

### **October 15**

NO CLASS: FALL BREAK

### **October 22**

Lecture: "Race, Ethnicity, and National Identity in America in the Early Twentieth Century and Beyond"

Reading: Gary Gerstle, "Theodore Roosevelt and the Divided Character of American Nationalism," *The Journal of American History* 86, 3 (Dec. 1999) pp.1280-1307. [JStor]

### **October 29**

Lecture: "Nationalism and the Totalitarian State"

Reading: Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, pp. 38-56 (e-reserve)

### **November 5**

Lecture: "Pan-Africanism and Diasporic National Identities"

Reading: Marcus Garvey, "If You Believe the Negro has a Soul," at

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5124>.

Mary Chamberlain, "Diasporic Memories: Community, Individuality, and Creativity—a Life Stories Perspective," *The Oral History Review* 36, No. 2 (Summer-Fall, 2009): pp. 177-187 (on JStor)

### **November 12**

Lecture: "Nationalism and Postcolonialism"

Reading: Franz Fanon, "The Pitfalls of National Consciousness" (from *The Wretched of the Earth*, 1961) at <http://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/fanon/pitfalls-national.htm>

### **November 19**

Lecture: "The Case of the Balkans"

Reading: Michael Ignatieff, *Blood and Belonging*, Ch. 1(e-reserve)

### **November 26**

Lecture: "National Identity in the Twenty-first Century"

Reading: Franklin Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*, Ch. 8 (e-reserve)