

University of North Carolina Greensboro  
Fall 2014  
HIS 208-05D Nationalism in Modern History (WEB)

Instructor Information:

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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 have changed over time along with specific historical conditions and as a consequence of human actions and decisions. In order to make sense of what is a very difficult and slippery concept, we will explore a number of scholarly debates through secondary sources and will evaluate a number of primary sources.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to

- Develop definitions of nationalism, national identities, and the state
- 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 or online at the sites indicated below.

Course Requirements, Activities, and Grading

This course will be graded on a total points system, described below:

Reading Responses: 100 pts

Each week, you will be responsible for at least one reading. Readings will be drawn from both primary and secondary sources. When you have completed the readings, you will be required to answer five questions, located in the assignments section under Course Documents. Requirements for questions are listed under the first assignment, but each assignment is worth 10 points. You will note that there are eleven reading assignments. I will drop your lowest score when adding them all up.

Midterm Exam: 50 pts

Your midterm exam will include several short-answer questions, as well as a single essay that should be around three pages. I will assign these questions 10 days in advance. They will be due by 6 p.m., October 10 (this is the beginning of fall break.)

Article Review Activity: 25 pts

For this activity, you will choose a scholarly article from a list that I provide. You will then use our library resources to find the article (they are all available online) and complete a worksheet that requires you to identify and assess its argument. I will give this assignment about three weeks in advance, and it will be due by midnight, November 24 (i.e., before the Thanksgiving holiday.)

Final Exam : 75 points

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 consider 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.

The total number of points available, then, is 250. I will calculate your grade based on the total number of points you earn.

Late Work: Obviously, all work should be turned in on time, and I will close assignments on Blackboard after the due date. If, however, you are for some reason unable to get an assignment completed by the due date, you should contact me beforehand. Late work will be penalized, and I will not accept it at all if you have not discussed it with me. I reserve the right to refuse to accept late work after a period that I deem reasonable, and from students who chronically fail to turn work in on time.

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.

### **Assignments:**

With the exception of the first assignment, which I ask only that you read, the questions for each group of readings will be posted to the assignments section on the course Blackboard. I will also attach a brief introduction to the week's topic, a sort of lecture that will help you place the readings in context. All questions, however, will be drawn from the readings. **ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY 11:59 EACH THURSDAY.** For example, the questions for week two will be due at 11:59 on Thursday, August 28. Further information about reading assignments will be posted during week one.

### **Week One (8/18-8/22): Introduction: What is History?**

Reading: William McNeill, "Why Study History?" at [http://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/archives/why-study-history-\(1985\)](http://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/archives/why-study-history-(1985))

### **Week Two (8/25-8/29): 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>

### **Week Three (9/2-9/5): 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*, 54-66 (in course documents.)

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

### **Week Four (9/8-9/12): 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 (in course documents).

### **Week Five (9/15-9/19): National Identities in the Revolutionary Atlantic**

Reading: Haitian Declaration of Independence at

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

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

**Week Six (9/22-9/26): The Industrial Revolution, Capitalism, and Nationalism**

Reading: Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, Ch. 3 (in course documents).

**Week Seven (9/29-10/3): 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)

**Week Eight (10/6-10/10): The Transformation of Nationalism, 1870-1918**

Reading: Eric Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780*, Ch. 4 (in course documents)

**MIDTERM DUE 10/10 at 6:00 PM**

**Week Nine (10/13-10/17) FALL BREAK, NO ASSIGNMENTS**

**Week Ten (10/20-10/24) 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. (in course documents)

**Week Eleven (10/27-10/31) Nationalism and the Totalitarian State**

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

**Week Twelve (11/3-11/7) 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)

**Week Thirteen (11/10-11/14) Nationalism and Postcolonialism**

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

**Week Fourteen (11/17-11/21) The Case of the Balkans**

Reading: Michael Ignatieff, *Blood and Belonging*, Ch. 1 (in course documents)

**Week Fifteen (11/24-11/28) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY- NO READINGS**

**Week Sixteen (12/1-12/5) Nationalism and Globalization**

Reading: Franklin Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*, Ch. 8 (in course documents)

**DECEMBER 6- FINAL EXAM DUE**