

**POLS 300**  
**Symposium on Politics:**  
**Building States and Nations**  
**Fall 2013**

**Instructor:** John French

**Location:** BSB 1115

**Office:** BSB 1126A

**Time:** M,W,F 3:00-3:50

**Office Hours:** M,W,F: 11:00-12:00  
(and by appointment)

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### **Course Description**

The concepts of *the state* and *the nation* are central both to political science and to the way that we as individuals understand the world around us and our place in it. Yet both of these terms are used vaguely, inconsistently, and sometimes interchangeably. People using the same words may mean very different things by them— a confusion that may have significant results for policymakers.

This course will explore these two concepts, attempting to arrive at a clear and consistent understanding of each one. We will examine the history of the concepts of state and nation to understand how the use of these terms has changed over time. We will also look at the impact that states and nations— and the various ways of understanding these concepts— have on politics and political institutions, both within countries and internationally. In particular, we will look at the problem of how states and nations coincide or fit together— and what happens when they do not.

### **Textbook**

There is one required textbook, available at the campus bookstore: Umut Özkirimli, *Theories of Nationalism: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd Edition; Palgrave MacMillan, 2010 (ISBN 978-0230577336). All other readings will be posted on Blackboard. Please let me know immediately if you have any trouble accessing Blackboard.

## **Assignments and Grading**

Your grade in this course will have four components. The first is weekly, two-page response papers, in which you will identify and explain a key theme, idea, controversy, or point of confusion in the readings for that week. Response papers are due on Friday each week.

There will also be an in-class midterm exam, covering all of the material for the course up to that point. It will consist of short answer questions and an essay. The exam will be given on October 23. Make-up exams will be given only in case of an excused absence.

The third, and largest, component of your grade for the course is a research paper of 12-15 pages, due on Monday, Dec. 9. A research proposal and bibliography are due on Nov. 4; these will count for 15% of your grade on the paper. We will discuss the paper assignment more in class, but briefly you will choose a single case of either a state or a nation/people and discuss the history of the relationship between state and nation in that case.

The fourth and final component of your grade is your attendance and participation in class. Attendance will be taken every day; you are allowed two unexcused absences, and every additional unexcused absence will result in the loss of ten percent of your participation points. In addition, you are expected to have read the assigned readings for each class, and be prepared to discuss them.

### **Grade Summary:**

Weekly 2-page response papers	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Research Paper	30%
Participation	20%

### **Grading Scale**

A:	90-100%
B:	80-89%
C:	70-79%
D:	60-69%
F:	0-59%

## **Ethics and Conduct**

Behavior that is distracting or disruptive is unacceptable. That includes the use of cell phones or other mobile devices (talking, texting, ringing, etc.). It also includes the inappropriate use of a computer (i.e. looking at Facebook instead of paying attention). Most fundamentally, it includes creating noise or other disturbances. You are also expected to treat me and your fellow students with respect at all times. Failure to abide by these standards will result in your being asked to leave the classroom, with attendant consequences for your participation grade.

### *Plagiarism:*

All of your work in this class—and in every class—must be your own. This means that using the work or words of another person without giving clearly them credit, or copying the work of another student (*with or without* their permission) is unacceptable. At a *minimum*, any plagiarized work will automatically receive a grade of zero for the assignment in question, and may also result in a failing grade for the course or disciplinary action by the University. It is possible to be expelled for plagiarism. Do not do it. If you have any doubt whatsoever about what does or does not constitute plagiarism or copying, *ask*.

## **Course Schedule and Readings**

Aug 26      Course Introduction

### **The State: Definitions and Origins**

Aug 28      Christopher Pierson, *The Modern State*, Ch. 1, pp. 4-27

Aug 30      Christopher Pierson, *The Modern State*, Ch. 2, pp. 28-51  
Michael Mann, “The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms, and Results”

### **The State: Making Order**

Sept 2      *Labor Day Holiday, No class*

Sept 4      Eugen Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen* ch. 1, pp. 3-23  
James C. Scott, et al. “The Production of Legal Identities Proper to the State: The Case of the Permanent Family Surname”

Sept 6      Eugen Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen* ch. 12 pp. 195-221

Sept 9      James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, ch. 2, pp. 53-83

Sept 11      Fukuyama, “The Imperative of State Building”  
Osterhammel, *Colonialism* ch. 5, pp. 49-68

Sept 13      Crawford Young, “The African Colonial State and its Political Legacy,” pp. 25-66.

- Sept 16 Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa*, ch. 1, pp. 11-31
- Sept 18 James C. Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed*, ch. 1, pp. 1-39
- Sept 20 Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, "Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood."
- Sept 23 Zartman: "Posing the Problem of State Collapse," pp. 1-11  
 Reno: "Congo: From State Collapse to 'Absolutism', to State Failure."  
 Mwangi S. Kimenyi, "Fractionalized, Armed and Lethal: Why Somalia Matters"

### **The Nation: Definitions and Origins**

- Sept 25 Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, p. 1-7  
 Ernest Renan, "What is a Nation?"
- Sept 27 Erika Harris, *Nationalism: Theories and Cases*, ch. 1, pp. 21-44

#### *Theories of Nationalism: Primordialism*

- Sept 30 Özkirimli, pp. 49-71  
 Hutchinson and Smith, pp. 29-33
- Oct 2 Shils, "Primordial, Personal, Sacred and Civic Ties"  
 Van Den Berghe, "Race and Ethnicity: A Sociobiological Perspective"

#### *Theories of Nationalism: Modernism*

- Oct 4 Özkirimli, pp. 72-120
- Oct 7 Özkirimli, pp. 120-142
- Oct 9 Hutchinson and Smith, pp. 55-88, 103-112  
 Marx, "The Nation-State and its Exclusions"

#### *Theories of Nationalism: Ethnosymbolism*

- Oct 11 Özkirimli, pp. 143-168
- Oct 14 Smith, pp. 105-136  
 Hutchinson and Smith, pp. 140-153

*Theories of Nationalism: New Approaches*

- Oct 146 Özkirimli, 169-198
- Oct 18 Hutchinson and Smith, pp. 289-325
- Oct 21 Review for Midterm Exam
- Oct 23 **MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

**National (Dis)unity**

- Oct 25 Benedict Anderson, "Census, Map, Museum" pp. 163-185
- Oct 28 Harris: *Nationalism: Theories and Cases*, ch. 3, pp. 75-97
- Oct 30 Hechter, *Internal Colonialism*, ch. 1, pp. 3-43
- Nov 1 Giliomee: "The Beginnings of Afrikaner Ethnic Consciousness, 1850-1915"
- Nov 4 Vincent, "A Cake of Soap"  
Vincent, "Bread and Honor"

**Research proposals and bibliography due in class**

- Nov 6 Marx, *Making Race and Nation—U.S.*
- Nov 8 Malcolm X: "The Ballot or the Bullet"  
Devon W. Carbado, "Racial Naturalization"
- Nov 11 David Wallace Adams, *Education for Extinction*, pp. 1-27
- Nov 13 Brubaker, Rogers (2001): "The return of assimilation? Changing perspectives on immigration and its sequels in France, Germany, and the United States."
- Nov 15 Andrew R.C. Marshall, "Myanmar gives official blessing to anti-Muslim monks"
- Nov 18 Alison Des Forges, "*Leave None To Tell the Story*": *Genocide in Rwanda*, pp. 31-79

- Nov 20 Vail and White: "Tribalism in the Political History of Malawi"
- Nov 22 Daniel Posner, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi."
- Nov 25 Alexander Dziadosz and Oliver Holmes, "Deepening ethnic rifts reshape Syria's towns"  
Jon Lee Anderson, "State of Terror"

### **State Building and International Security**

- Nov 27 Sebastian Mallaby, "The Reluctant Imperialist: Terrorism, Failed States, and the Case for American Empire"  
Chester Crocker, "Engaging Failing States"
- Nov 29 *Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class*
- Dec 2 Jason Brownlee: "Can America Nation-Build?"
- Dec 4 Eizenstat et al., "Rebuilding Weak States"  
Shari Berman, "From the Sun King to Karzai"
- Dec 6 Toby Dodge, "Iraq: The Contradictions of Exogenous State-Building in Historical Perspective."  
Larry Diamond, "What Went Wrong and Right in Iraq"

**Dec 9: Research Papers due by 5:00 PM.**