POLITICS 589. STATES, DEMOCRACIES, NATIONS

Fall 2023, Thursdays, 1:30-4:20.

Professor Carles Boix
406 Robertson Hall
8-2139

E-mail: cboix@princeton.edu
Office hours: Fri. 3-5 pm. or by appt.

Faculty Assistant: Chalise Mapp, cmmapp@princeton.edu

Course Design and Objectives

This course surveys current theoretical and empirical contributions on a central question of politics: national identity and nationalism. We will devote the course to explore: the canonical literature on national identity formation; potential microfoundations of national identity; empirical work on the particular paths taken by different countries; national identity and resentment; nationalism and revolutionary action in the 20th century; institutional accommodation of national heterogeneity. The course assigns readings from both traditional macrohistorical and qualitative research and more recent analytical and empirical research.

Course Procedures and Evaluation

Each student is expected to read (before class) the items listed as 'required readings' for each session.

In addition, students are expected to complete:

(1) Four short papers (around 3 pages) answering one of the week’s discussion questions. Papers will be due by 4:30pm the day before class (with answers to the questions of that week’s session). No exceptions will be made and no extensions will be granted. The answers should not just summarize readings, but show reflection on how the readings address important issues, are flawed in particular dimensions, or can be developed or improved in specific directions.

(2) A final take-home exam to be set by the instructor or a research paper with a topic to be determined in advance with the instructor. Due date: January 20, 2020.

Grades: 25% participation, 35% papers, 40% final exam (paper).

Readings

Books marked with an (*) have been ordered at the Labyrinth and put on reserve. All other readings have been put on electronic reserve.
**Week 1. Theory: Building Blocks.** (September 7)

**Required reading**


**Further reading**


Week 2. Nations and National Identity. The Canonical Literature (I). (September 14)

Required reading


Further reading


**Week 3. Nations and National Identity. The Canonical Literature (II).** (September 21)

**Required reading**


**Further reading**


Simon Schama. *Citizens*.


Week 4. Recognition, Emancipation, and the Liberal Deal. (September 28)

Required reading


Further reading


Rousseau. Discourse on the Origins of Inequality.
Week 5. ‘Reactionary’ Nationalism. The Problem of “Ressentiment.” (October 5)

Required reading


Krause, Javier. 2013. “Fin-de-Siècle Imperial Melancholia: Angel Ganivet’s Idearium español”. In Imperial Emotions: Cultural Responses to Myths of Empire in Fin-de-Siècle Spain. Chapter 3. Liverpool University Press.


Further reading


“Introduction: Republic and Nation in the belle époque.”
Week 6. National Minorities. (October 12)

Required reading


Further reading

Clermont-Tonnerre. 1789. Discourse on the Assimilation of the Jewish People.


Avineri, Shlomo. 1981. The making of modern Zionism: intellectual origins of the Jewish state. Pages TBA.


Week 7. From Colonialism to Nationalism (I). (October 26)

Required reading


Further reading

Marx, Karl. 1843. *On the Jewish Question*.

J. V. Stalin. 1913. *Marxism and the National Question*.


Week 8. From Colonialism to Nationalism (II). (November 2)

Required reading


Further reading


Week 9. Understanding Oneself as a Nation. (November 9)

Required reading


Further reading

Week 10. Understanding Oneself as a Nation (II). (November 16)

Required reading


Further reading


**Week 11. Consequences.** (November 30)

**Required reading**


Week 12. Managing Fragmentation (December 7)

Required reading


Further reading


