Nationalism and Nation-Building
Undergraduate Course Syllabus

Instructor
Dr. Vladimir A. Zhdanov
This syllabus is designed in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor Program in International Affairs.

Author

Dr. V.A. Zhdanov

Director MGIMO Library

M.V. Reshetnikova
PART 1:
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1 General information
• Full course title: Nationalism and Nation-Building
• Type of course: Elective
• Level of course: B.A.
• Year of study: 3rd
• Number of ECTS credits allocated: 2
• Name of the instructor: Dr. Vladimir A. Zhdanov
• E-mail: v.a.zhdanov100@gmail.com

1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes
The course examines the theoretical and historical evolution of nationalism and nation-building by providing a survey of the major theoretical approaches, such as instrumentalist, constructivist, and primordialist. It discusses the impact of nationalism on state formation and on patterns of political violence. The definitions of national identity and citizenship will be analyzed as well. At the end the course will address the effects of globalization and the resurgence of nationalism in the post-Cold War era.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to understand the current explanations of nationalism and state formation. Students will develop an in-depth knowledge of major topics within the field of nationalism studies.

1.3 Course requirements and grading plan

Course requirements
Students are required to attend no less than 80% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Reading of the required materials and active engagement in class discussions is mandatory.

Grading plan
Grading is on a Pass/Fail basis.
Three 30-minute in-class tests – 25% each.
Participation in class discussions – 25%.
In-class presentations are not mandatory but will be highly appreciated. Such a presentation (up to 15 minutes) is performed at will by a student once in the semester. The presentation has to be based on some of the current week’s suggested readings. Reading materials will be sent as attached files in an email.
PART 2. COURSE CONTENT

2.1 Types of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of work</th>
<th>Academic hours</th>
<th>ECTS credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total for lectures and discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
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<td>Reading assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation for the second test</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for the third test</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2.2. Course content and readings by topic

**Topic 1: Introduction (lecture and discussion)**
Nationalism as ideology. Ethnic (“Eastern”) and civic (“Western”) nationalisms.

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings:**

**Topic 2: Main approaches to the study of nationalism: Primordialism, perennialism and ethnosymbolism (lecture and discussion)**

**Required readings:**
Suggested readings:

**Topic 3: Main approaches to the study of nationalism: Modernism (lecture and discussion)**
The varieties of modernist paradigm (socioeconomic, sociocultural, political, ideological, constructivist). The role of elites.

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings:**

**Topic 4: The origin and historic forms of the state (lecture and discussion)**
Socio-economic and cognitive bases of the state. “Roving bandits” and “stationary bandits”. City-states and multi-ethnic empires.

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings:**


**Topic 5. The nation-state (lecture and discussion)**

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings:**

**Topic 6. Identity (lecture and discussion)**

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings:**

**Topic 7. National identity (lecture and discussion)**
National identity markers. The national idea.

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings:**

**Topic 8. Sovereignty (lecture and discussion)**
Westphalian sovereignty. Self-determination. The external and internal aspects of sovereignty.

**Required readings:**
1. Hechter M. *Containing Nationalism*, chapter 7 (p. 115-126).

**Suggested readings:**
Topic 9: Citizenship (lecture and discussion).

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings:**

Topic 10. The nationalism of the rich (lecture and discussion)

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings:**

Topic 11. Far-right nationalism and xenophobia (lecture and discussion)
Changing class structures and the rise of post-materialist values. The end of the Cold War and the decline of support for mainstream center-left and center-right parties. The rise of populism.
Required readings:

Suggested readings:

**Topic 12. Post-colonialism and the nation (lecture and discussion)**

Required readings:

Suggested readings:

**Topic 13. Post-Communist nationalism (lecture and discussion)**

Required readings:
1. McCrone D. *The Sociology of Nationalism*. Chapter 8 (p. 149-166).
Suggested readings:


**Topic 14. Modern ethnic conflicts and state breaking (lecture and discussion)**


**Required readings:**


**Suggested readings:**


**Topic 15. Nationalism and globalization (lecture and discussion)**


**Required readings:**

Suggested readings:


**Topic 16: Conclusion (lecture and discussion)**

The future of nationalism.

Required readings:


Suggested readings:


The list of readings

Required readings


**Suggested readings**


*Cederman L.E., Girardin L., Gleditsch K.S.* ‘Ethnonationalist triads. Assessing the
(2016), no.2. C. 210-221.


