NATIONAL IDENTITY AND THE POLITICS OF BELONGING
New York University
Graduate School of Arts and Science
Department of Politics
POL-GA.3501.001
Fall 2020

Professor: Dr. Laurie P. Salitan
Time: Tuesday 4-5:50pm
Location: NYU Zoom

Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description:

This seminar builds a framework for understanding and analyzing the politics of national identity. The assigned readings will provide a knowledge base that will help you develop the skills to think critically about nations, states and the politics of belonging. Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will discuss nations, nationalism, and identity. We will consider the politics of peoplehood in the contexts of history, memory, culture, inequality, ethnicity, race, religion and geography. Globalization, ethnic violence, migration and xenophobia will also be addressed.

Course Requirements:

1. This seminar requires substantial weekly reading and places significant emphasis on preparation, class participation and discussion. Attendance and active participation are essential components of this course.

2. Oral presentations: Each week all students will synthesize the weekly readings in a written analysis of no more than 800 words. Students must highlight the key issues, concepts and debates, with emphasis on the important analytical issues discussed in the readings. Please include questions for class discussion. The weekly write-up must be distributed to all members of the seminar via email attachment by noon (12pm) each Monday preceding our seminar. Each week individual students will be the designated discussion leader(s) responsible for initiating focused and critical discussion of the readings.

3. Week 14: Presentation and discussion of research paper.

The research paper is a case study of contested national identity. Your assignment is to choose a case that examines the politics of national identity in a country or region of your choice. Your research will explore the connection between membership and identity, the particulars of how and why these issues are contested and how they impact the politics of national belonging. This paper must clearly reflect an ability to think critically and analytically. This is a formal research paper and must employ standard footnote citation and bibliographic formats (Chicago style preferred. For a quick guide see: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html.)
Note that this research paper is not a position paper nor should it be an editorial/opinion piece. The papers should be approximately 4000-5000 words (15-20 pages double spaced) in length. All papers are due on **December 8, 2020**.

**Requirements for research proposal:**
Your research proposal must provide the details of the case you will research. It must explicitly state how you plan to research it. You must frame your study by clearly identifying the questions you are asking. It is important to contextualize your case. Why is your case important? What evidence will you examine to test your argument? Your research proposal should be 250-500 words in length. Please attach a list of at least five (5) of the preliminary sources you have identified to begin your work. Be sure to identify a topic for which there is sufficient research material to explore. You will need to identify sources that are scholarly (i.e., based on documented research, not journalistic or unverified sources). Finally, be sure to select a topic that can be thoroughly addressed within the scope of a 4000-5000-word paper. Be mindful to choose a clearly defined case so that your work is focused and thorough. This is not an opinion piece nor is it an essay. It is a research paper. **Research proposals are due on Monday, October 12, 2020.**

Grades:
50% Weekly assignment and class participation.
50% Final paper and presentation.

If you need to review basic principles of research design, see:

King Gary; Keohane, Robert; Verba, Sydney, *Designing Social Inquiry*. Browse topics, including pp. 28-33 on main themes; 35-36 on generalization; 43-46 on case studies; 99-114 on constructing theory; pp. 128-139 on bias in selecting evidence.

Brady, Henry and Collier, David, *Rethinking Social Inquiry*, 2nd ed. Qualitative and mixed-methods critique of and extension of King, Keohane and Verba.

**Reading materials for the course are linked and available online through Bobst library and through the reserve holdings link on the NYU Classes site for this seminar.**
NATIONS, ETHNIC GROUPS, AND NATIONALISM: ORIGINS, SPREAD, MODERNITY (Weeks 1-4)

Week One (September 8): Introduction

Connor, Walker, “A Nation is a Nation, is a State, is an Ethnic Group is a …,” Ethnic and Racial Studies, vol. 1 (October 1978), pp. 377-400.


Week Two (September 15)


Week Three (September 22)


**Week Four (September 29)**


**Week Five (October 6): Identity Shaping: History, Memory, Context and Choice**


***PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE ON Monday, OCTOBER 12, 2020***
**Week Six (October 13): Individual meetings to discuss research proposal**

Individual student conferences with Dr. Salitan. Research proposals are due on Monday, October 12.

**Week Seven (October 20): Motivations for Violence**


**Week Eight (October 27): The Role of Institutions in Nations and States**

Bauböck, Rainer, “Towards a Political Theory of Migrant Transnationalism,” *The International Migration Review*, vol. 37, no. 3 (Fall 2003), pp. 700-723.


Week Nine (November 3): Religion and Culture


Week Ten (November 10): Political Boundaries and Membership


Week Eleven (November 17): Race and Nation in the USA


**Week Twelve (November 24): Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion: Values, Identities and Difference**


**Week Thirteen (December 1): Politics of Difference**


**Week Fourteen (December 8): Research Paper Presentations**

Students present and discuss their research. Papers are due at the time of presentation.