

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SPRING SEMESTER, 2005.

SYLLABUS FOR

IR 315: ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM IN WORLD POLITICS
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 2:00 – 3:20 PM IN SOS B44
DR. GUNNAR NIELSSON. OFFICE IN VKC 315. TEL. 740-2128
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OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 10:30 – NOON AND BY APPOINTMENT

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Description: This course focuses on the role of ethnic communities and nations within the domestic politics of sovereign states. Contrary to conventional thinking, most states are not nation states. The existence of ethnic minorities and multiple, competing nations within the majority of states has increasingly been recognized in international relations studies, especially since the end of the Cold War. This study of nationalism in international politics focuses on the conflicts generated by nationalist demand for political recognition and concludes with an examination of the controversial issue of intervention by other states and international organizations in civil war within sovereign states.

The approach to this topic is global in scope with the use of selected cases for comparative purposes. The course is divided into two parts. The recognition of old continuous nations in Europe since the 16th century, the history of modern empires and the formation of new states since the end of the Napoleonic War are the subjects comprising Part I. The dynamic of nation formation (the political mobilization of ethnic communities) and the conflict it has generated within sovereign states is the subject examined in Part II. It includes a comparative review of nine case studies and an examination of the role of nationalism in international politics.

Course Requirements: Attendance and willing participation in discussion are expected of everybody. In-session midterm and final examinations are required. The midterm is scheduled on Thursday, February 24 and the final will be given on Tuesday, May 3rd. A 12-15-page term paper is required. It should be an empirical analysis of ethnic/national conditions in one of the six international regions. More specific guidelines will be presented during the early weeks of the semester. The term paper is due on Tuesday, April 19. The proportion of the course grade accounted for by each of the requirements is as follows:

Attendance and participation	20%
Term paper	30%
Midterm	20%
Final	30%

Required Texts:

Ray Taras and Rajat Ganguly , UNDERSTANDING ETHNIC CONFLICT: THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION. New York: Longman, 2nd edition 2002. Paperback.

Ted Gurr and Barbara Harff, ETHNIC CONFLICT IN WORLD POLITICS. Boulder Co., Westview Press, second edition, 2004.

Hugh Seton-Watson, NATIONS AND STATES. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1977. The history chapters, 1 - 8 together with Hedley Bull and Adam Watson, editors, THE EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1985, chapters 1, 8 and 14 are reproduced and available at the Partners section of the USC bookstore.

PART II: SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week No. 1: Introduction and Class Assignments.

Jan. 11

January 13 – February 24: PART I: THE RISE OF MODERN EMPIRES AND THE GLOBAL PROCESS OF STATE FORMATION SINCE 1800

Since the formation of nations is closely tied to the rise and demise of empires and the subsequent formation of sovereign states, that development is dealt with as a way of presented “the historical setting” for contemporary nationalism. Beginning with the old continuous European nations (states) formed in the 1500s and 1600s, we review the state formation process in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Asia and Africa since 1800. A secular trend in contemporary world politics is that, since the end of World War Two, state formation has proceeded at an exponential rate, leading to the presence of 191 sovereign states, so far!

Week No. 1 & 2: Conceptual Perspectives on Ethnic Communities and Nation Formation

Jan. 13 - 18

Reading: Taras and Ganguly, pp. 1 - 25.

Week No. 2 & 3: Old Continuous States, Empires and the Modern International Society

Jan. 20 - 27

Reading: Bull and Watson, Chapters 1, 8 and 14. Seton-Watson, Chapters 1 and 2 and pp. 15-21, 143-148, 194-196, 239-243, 273-280 and 324-331

Week No. 4: Formation of New States in Europe and in the Americas

Feb. 1 - 3

Reading: Seton-Watson, Chapters 3, 4 and 5

Week No. 5: Middle Eastern and Asian State Formation

Feb. 8 - 10

Reading: Seton-Watson, Chapters 6 and 7

Week No. 6: State Formation in Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania

Feb. 15 - 17

Reading: Seton-Watson, Chapter 8

Week No. 7: Summary and Midterm

Feb. 22 – 24

Thursday, Feb. 24: Midterm Examination

March 1 – April 21: PART II: NATIONALISM IN CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE

The dynamics of national conflict is studied by using Ted Gurr's research project (entitled Minorities at Risk). Gurr presents an insightful overview about the extent of ethnic conflict in the world today which is followed by a description of the four cases used for comparison -- the Kurds, the Miskitos, the Chinese in Malaysia and the Turks in Germany. A careful review of his empirical analytical framework is an important step before moving on to the dynamics of political mobilization of ethnic communities and how governing political regimes respond to that dynamic. The apparent shift in policy from repression to accommodation and the emerging international norms and practices by the "states-system" concludes Gurr's thoughtful analysis.

Drawing upon Taras and Ganguly, we move on to a review of five case studies of nationalism in Russia, Canada, Sri Lanka, sub-Saharan Africa and Yugoslavia. We conclude with a return to discussing nationalism as an issue in international politics. The right of nations to secede from existing sovereign entities, the controversial issue of intervention by states or international organizations in nationalist conflicts within sovereign states as well as current US foreign policy approaches to ethnic conflicts in the world is the final subjects considered.

Week No. 8: The Ted Gurr Research Project, Minorities at Risk: Part One

March 1 -3 Introduction and Descriptions of the Four Case Studies

Reading: Gurr and Harff, Chapters 1 - 4

Week No. 9: The Gurr Project, Part Two: The Analytical Framework and

March 8 - 10 Political Mobilization Leading to Ethnic Conflict

Reading: Gurr and Harff, Chapters 5 & 6

Week No 10: Spring Recess

March 14 - 18

Week No. 11: The Gurr Project, Part Three: Ethnic Conflict and the International System

March 22 - 26

Reading: Gurr and Harff: Chapters 7, 8 and 9.

Week No 12: Case Studies: 1) Russia and Chechnya; 2) Canada and Quebec

March 29 - 31

Reading: Taras and Ganguly, Chapters 5 & 6

Week No. 13: Case Studies: 3) Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers; 4) African Secessionists

April 5 - 7 Experiences and 5) former Yugoslavia
Reading: Taras and Ganguly, Chapters 7, 8 & 9

Week No. 14: Nationalism as an Issue in International Politics

April 12 - 14

Reading: Taras and Ganguly, Chapters 2 & 3

Week No. 15: International Intervention in Nationalist Conflicts

April 19 - 21

Reading: Taras and Ganguly, Chapters 4 and 10

Tuesday, April 19: The Term Papers Are Due

Week No 16: Summary and Conclusion

April 26 – 28

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Final Exam