

POLITICS, ETHNICITY and NATIONALISM

Anth 3506.10

Wed/Fri 11:10 am – 12:35 pm; MPA 309

Professor Erica C. Wortham

Fall 2015

Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30-2 pm and Friday, 9:30 – 11 am, 201B HAH

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I Course Description

In this course we will consider some of the major theoretical and ethnographic issues in the study of nationalism and ethnicity while exploring several regions of the world through ethnographies. We will examine how ethnic groups are situated and situate themselves in colonial, settler and contemporary plural societies, how states attempt to integrate ethnic groups into nations, and how ethnic groups in turn re-imagine the nation. After a critical engagement with key texts, we will problematize multiculturalism and focus on how ethnic groups in the United States, Mexico and elsewhere organize around issues of sovereignty and human rights to negotiate their place within the nation. We will also consider the role of migration and globalization in shaping both ethnicities and nations.

II Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance (20% of grade).

Active preparation and participation for class discussion is essential. For each class meeting, two students will prepare and present a 2-3 paragraph response to include 3 discussion questions on the assigned readings. Names will be drawn randomly and response papers will be emailed to me the night before class.

2. Writing Assignments (30% of grade, 15 % each).

There are two possible writing assignments in this course: "My Nationalism/s" (due Friday 9/18) and "National Spaces" (due Friday, 11/20). These are 3-page, candid reflection papers that critically engage specific topics covered in class readings. The first is based on your own sense of nationalism, nationalisms, or, possibly, the absence of one, and the second is based on your exploration of national museum, building or monument in DC (see suggested reading). I place a high premium on writing and thoughtful carefully proofread work. All papers must be typed, titled and double-spaced. Late papers will be graded down a full letter grade. See Box Project below as an alternative to the second paper.

3. Mid-term exam (20% of grade)

An in-class exam consisting of short questions and essays.

4. Box Project (15% of grade).

An alternative to the second paper, this is a 3-D, hands-on project in which you construct a box out of card stock paper (a template is provided) and modify it to represent your emerging, developing, layered ideas and understandings about nationalism and ethnicity. Boxes can be painted, perforated, multiplied, connected, opened, or closed; they may display/contain words, electronic messages, have textured surfaces, colors, photographs, news media, etc. You will not be graded for creativity as artists, but rather as critical thinkers

and for rendering your ideas with clarity. Final boxes along with a one-page written project description are due in class on Friday 11/20. Be prepared to present your box and ideas on the last class meeting. Collaborations are welcome, but each of you must make your own box and write your own, individually authored project description. Be sure to credit your collaborator/s where appropriate! A few box projects from 2013 can be viewed here, <https://vimeo.com/90355357>

5. Final exam (30% of grade).

A cumulative final exam consisting of multiple choice and short answer essay questions.

Summary

Class attendance and participation	20% of grade
"My Nationalism/s" paper due Friday, 9/18	15% of grade
Mid-term Exam, Wed, 10/28	20% of grade
"National Spaces" paper or Box Project due Friday, 11/20	15% of grade
Final Exam, tba, 12/11-19	30% of grade

III Reading Material

Several readings are available as PDF files on Blackboard (Bb). The following books, listed alphabetically by author, are available for purchase or rent at the GW bookstore:

Anderson, Benedict

1991 [1983] Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism. New York: Verso

Cattelino, Jessica

2008 High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty. Durham: Duke University Press

Chatterjee, Partha

1986 Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

Bonfil Battalla, Guillermo

1996 México Profundo: Reclaiming a Civilization. Austin: University of Texas Press

Gellner, Ernest

2008[1983] Nations and Nationalism Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Roth, Joshua Hotaka

2002 Brokered Homeland: Japanese Migrants in Japan Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Speed, Shannon

2008 Rights in Rebellion: Indigenous Struggle and Human Rights in Chiapas. Stanford: Stanford University Press

Suggested reading for National Spaces paper: Clifford, selections from Routes, Bb

IV Academic Integrity

All students must practice academic integrity. Do your own work, quote and carefully site the work of others. If you have any questions about how to do this, please speak to me. Plagiarism, and all breaches of academic integrity (for example, the sale of lecture-notes from this class, or the use of content from the internet as though it was your own), will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>.

Following departmental guidelines, the policy on academic integrity in this course is that if you commit a breach of academic integrity in any assignment or exam, you will receive a zero for that assignment or exam. This infraction will be reported to the University's Academic Integrity Council. You will be **clearly** notified by the instructor in person OR by email before the Council is informed.

V Special Needs

Please let me know **right away** if you have any special needs with respect to how this course will be conducted. **Don't wait to do this.** If you need extra time for exams, you must register with DSS; please let us know if you need to do this, and don't wait. The web site for Disability Support Services is as follows: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

VI Schedule

Week 1

W 9/2 Syllabus Review; Politics
F 9/4 Geertz, chs. 9 and 10 Bb, Comaroff, "Of Totemism and Ethnicity" Bb

Week 2 Nations and Nationalism

W 9/9 Gellner, Nations and Nationalism, Introduction, chs. 1-2
F 9/11 Gellner, Nations and Nationalism, chs. 3 - 5

Week 3

W 9/16 Gellner, Nations and Nationalism, chs. 6-8
F 9/18 Gellner, Nations and Nationalism, chs. 9-10; "My Nationalism" paper due

Week 4

W 9/23 Smith, Introduction and chs. 1-2 Bb
F 9/25 Anderson, Imagined Communities, chs. 1-4

Week 5

W 9/30 Anderson, Imagined Communities, chs. 5-7
F 10/2 Anderson, Imagined Communities, chs. 8-11

Week 6

W 10/7 Chatterjee, Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World, Preface, chs. 1-3
Screening: Division of Hearts (Saati Khanna, 1987, 57 mins)
F 10/9 Chatterjee, Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World, skim chs. 3-5, ch. 6

Week 7 Multiculturalism and Indigenous Sovereignty

W 10/16 Mid-term, in class

F 10/18 Cattellino, High Stakes, Introduction and ch. 1
Hale, "Does Multiculturalism Menace?" Bb; Myers and Ginsburg, "A History of Aboriginal Futures" Bb

Week 8

W 10/21 Cattellino, High Stakes, chs. 2-3

F 10/23 Cattellino, High Stakes, chs. 4-5 and Conclusion

Week 9 Human Rights

W 10/28 Speed, Rights in Rebellion, chs. 1-3

F 10/30 Battalla, México Profundo, Introduction and Part I

Week 10

W 11/4 Speed, Rights in Rebellion, chs. 4-8

F 11/6 No class, "National Spaces" research

Week 11

W 11/11 Battalla, México Profundo, Part II and III

F 11/13 Screening: A Place Called Chiapas (Nettie Wild, 1998, 92 mins)

Week 12 Immigration

W 11/18 Roth, Brokered Homeland, chs. 1-3

F 11/20 Roth, Brokered Homeland, chs. 4-6 and conclusion

Screening: TBA

"National Spaces" paper or Box Project due

Week 13

W 11/25 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

F 11/27 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14

W 12/2 ISIS readings, TBA

F 12/4 ISIS readings, TBA

Week 15 Last Class, Box Project Presentations, Review

Final Exam Friday, December 11, 12:40-2:40 pm MPA 309