

Seminar on Nationalism

Fall, 2019

EUH4930, sec. 15249
WOH4930-1A59 sec. 23584
JST4936 sec. 24498

Tuesdays, Period 7 - 9 (1:55 PM - 4:55 PM)
Keene-Flint, room 0113

Professor Mitchell Hart
018 Keene-Flint
hartm@ufl.edu
273-3361

Office hours: Tuesdays, 11-12; Thursdays, 4-5.

Nationalism has arguably been the most potent force for identity formation, at the individual and collective levels, over the past three centuries. This seminar on comparative nationalisms introduces students to some of the major works and foundational debates around nations and nationalism. What is a nation? When do nations begin? What is patriotism, and how does it differ from nationalism? What is the relationship between different forms of nationalism and other crucial historical categories such as gender, race, religion, and class?

Each week we will read one of the assigned books and/or articles and meet to discuss it. At least one member of the seminar will be responsible for leading the week's discussion, though everyone in the seminar will be responsible for reading the assigned work and formulating questions.

Grades will be based on level and quality of weekly participation, and on the assigned research paper.

Written assignment: Each student will produce a research paper, between 15-20 pages long, on a specific topic related to the theme of the course. This will entail extensive research using the library and its resources. Each student will present their findings to the seminar in a fifteen-minute presentation towards the end of the semester.

We will discuss this assignment in much greater detail in class.

Required books for the course:

Jill Lepore, *This America: The Case for the Nation*

Liah Greenberg, *Nationalism: A Short History*

David Bell, *The Cult of the Nation*

Linda Colley, *Britons*

Peter Fritzsche, *Germans into Nazis*

John Higham, *Strangers in the Land*

Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible*

There are also essays and articles required for the course. These are pdf files and they can be found in the Canvas or e-learning site for this course.

Course Requirements: Attendance is mandatory. This is a seminar, so your repeated absence will be noted and will directly affect your grade in the course. Active participation is required. That means you must do the reading on a regular basis and come prepared to discuss the assigned material.

Each week, everyone will read the week's assigned readings and write up a **one to two page summary** of each group of readings. In addition, each person will write up a set of questions about the readings that will serve as jumping off points for our discussions. Each week, two people will take responsibility for leading the discussions. You will have carefully read the material and come prepared to answer questions and lead discussion.

Seminar Paper: Each of you will produce a 12-15 page essay on a topic to be agreed upon by you and me. This paper is intended to give you the opportunity to explore in depth a more specific issue or theme that is of particular interest to you. I suggest you start thinking right away about such a topic, identify it, and come and speak with me. This essay will demonstrate your ability to do historical research and write a critical historical essay at an advanced level. Remember: this is a senior seminar and your work is expected to reflect your advanced status as history majors. This means that your final grade on the paper will depend on a variety of factors, including writing, sophistication of research and argument, and the ability to construct an essay that demonstrates your skills as a history major—the degree to which you learned and retained the information provided in the History Practicum course.

“Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

Weekly Schedule of Readings and Discussions

Week 1. a) Ernest Renan, “What is a Nation?” [pdf file in Canvas]

b) Isaiah Berlin, “The Bent Twig” [pdf]

Week 2. Jill Lepore, *This America*

Week 3. Liah Greenberg, *Nationalism: A Short History*

Week 4. David Bell, *The Cult of the Nation*, Preface, introduction, and chapters 1-3

Week 5. David Bell, *The Cult of the Nation*, Chapters 4-6 and conclusion

Week 6. Linda Colley, *Britons*, introduction and chapters 1-4

Week 7. Linda Colley, *Britons*, chapters 5-8 and conclusion

Week 8. Peter Fritzsche, *Germans into Nazis*, pp. 1-82

Week 9. John Higham, *Strangers in the Land*, chapters 1-6

Week 10. John Higham, *Strangers in the Land*, chapters 7-11 and epilogue

Week 11. Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible*, introduction and chapters 1-5

Week 12. Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible*, chapters 6-10

Weeks 13-15. Seminar Research presentations