

Course information 2023-24

IR2084 Nationalism and international relations

General information

COURSE LEVEL: 5

CREDIT: 30

NOTIONAL STUDY TIME: 300 hours

Summary

This course provides an introduction to the study of one important aspect of nationalism, namely its impact on international relations.

Conditions

Prerequisite: If taken as part of a BSc degree, the following course(s) must be attempted before you can register on this course:

- IR1011 Introduction to international relations.
- IR1198 International relations: theories, concepts & debates

Aims and objectives

More specifically, this course aims considers:

- theories and problems of nationalism and international society and its relation to other ideologies such as communism, fascism and liberalism
- the historical background of nationalism in world politics
- the practice of nationalism in and beyond Europe since 1945 and its consequences for economic and political arrangements
- problems and practices of self-determination in a world of nation-states: boundaries, decolonisation, human and minority rights; racism, the resurgence of religion, humanitarian intervention, globalization and multiculturalism
- the relationship between evolving international norms (as disclosed in treaties, conventions, international organisations and political discourse) and changing state practices.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course and having completed the essential reading and activities, you should be able to:

- critically examine the main concepts and theories employed in the study of nationalism
- account for the similarities and differences between nationalism and other leading ideologies (liberalism, communism, fascism, and national socialism)
- discuss the evolving role nationalism has played in international politics and the changing policy responses directed at problems of nationalism.

Please consult the current EMFSS Programme Regulations for further information on the availability of a course, where it can be placed on your programme's structure, and other important details.

- You should be able to produce lucid, coherent, analytic written papers which demonstrate an awareness of theories of nationalism and international society, as well as international norms and practices relevant to ethnic diversity within states.

Essential reading

For full details please refer to the reading list.

Mayall, J. *Nationalism and International Society*. (Cambridge University Press, 1990) first edition [ISBN 978-0521389617]

Hutchinson, J. and A.D. Smith (eds) *Nationalism*. (Oxford Readers, Oxford University Press, 1995) [ISBN 978-0192892607]

Jackson Preece, J. *Minority Rights: Between Diversity and Community*. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2005) [ISBN 978-0745623962]

For each chapter you also need to download and read selected articles which are available in the Online Library.

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three-hour unseen written examination.

Syllabus

The rise of nationalism: concepts and definitions: *The doctrine of nationalism; Rival definitions of the nation; Modernism and primordialism; 'Nations' and modernity; 'Nations' before modernity; Contested origins, contested futures*

Nationalism and the Structure of International Society: *A real estate model; The problem of legitimacy; The use of force; The extension of the system; The terms of nationalism discourse; National self-determination; National minority; Plebiscite; Irridentism; Secession*

Nationalism and other ideologies: *Ideology and international relations; An ideology for nationalists?; Liberalism and nationalism; Essentials of liberal thought; Tensions between liberal and nationalist principles; The liberal nationalist accommodation; Communism; Nationalism as false consciousness; The impact of the Russian Revolution; Fascism and National Socialism; A different kind of ideology; Pathological nationalism?*

The spread of nationalism in Europe: *Europe before nationalism; A changing political landscape; Language and nation; National self-determination; A new territorial status quo; State-building and minorities; Overcoming the territorial status quo: case study Kosovo;*

The spread of nationalism beyond Europe: *Africa and Asia before nationalism; Race and nation; A changing political landscape; Self-determination and equality of peoples; A new territorial status quo; State-building and minorities; Overcoming the territorial status quo: case study Eritrea*

The future of nationalism: *Identity and community; The challenge of minorities; The challenge of religion; The challenge of economic nationalism; The challenge of internationalism; the challenge of globalization; The challenge of post-nationalism;*

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