



SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Programme:	M.A. (PISM)
Course No:	
Course Title:	Ethnicity and Nationalism in International Relations
Course Type:	Optional
Semester:	Winter
Course Teacher & Contact Details:	Dr Rashmini Koparkar Room no. 333, SIS-II Rashmini.koparkar@gmail.com 9540074119
Credits:	4
Contact Hours:	4 hours/week

Course Statement

The last decade of the twentieth century witnessed number of ethnic conflicts and rise of nationalisms, posing serious challenge to security and stability in many parts of the world. This era also witnessed entry of several new nation-states to the international system. As a result of these developments, concepts like ethnicity and nation gained wider parlance in the discipline of political science. Nationalism and its potential to ignite conflict drew attention of many experts of International Relations. It started a fresh debate on concepts like nation-states, nation-building, multi-ethnic states, and ethnic minorities.

Ethnicity, nation, and nationalism have transformed the way we understand global politics, as they have been closely associated with conflict, cooperation, identity, and legitimacy in International Relations. Despite this, in most IR curricula, they remain scattered across different modules, lacking a coherent framework. This course tries to fill that gap, providing a comprehensive engagement with concepts, approaches, and case studies to clarify how ethnicity and nationalism shape the international system. The rationale of this course is to make students explore the roots and dynamics of ethno-national conflicts through critical understanding of these concepts.

Course Objectives

1. To create a comprehensive framework for students to understand the concepts of ethnicity and nationalism.
2. To make these key concepts and their applications simpler through case studies, simulations, and audio-visual media.
3. To train students to explore the roots and dynamics of any ethno-national issues or conflicts across the globe.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to;

1. Develop conceptual understanding on ethnicity, nation and nationalism especially in the context of International Relations.
2. Comprehend various approaches, debates and theories surrounding these concepts.
3. Analyse the historical evolution of nation and nationalism in Europe, and their manifestations in the post-colonial and post-communist states.
4. Examine and understand contemporary issues and conflicts where ethnicity and nationalism play defining roles.

Instruction Methods

1. Lectures
2. Discussions and Debates
3. Trivia Quizzes
4. Audio-visual media
5. Simulation

Evaluation Methods

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|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Op-ed Write-up | (10%) |
| 2. Class Simulation | (10%) |
| 3. Participation in Class Discussions | (10%) |
| 4. Group Presentation on Case Studies | (20%) |
| 5. End-Semester Exam | (50%) |

Course Outline

Module I: Conceptualizing Ethnicity and Nationalism

This unit will introduce the concepts of Ethnicity, Nation, Nation-State, and Nationalism. Apart from creating the basic understanding of these terms, focus shall be on explaining the key attributes, usages and differences. It will cover:

1. Ethnicity and Nation
2. Nation-State and Nationalism
3. National Identity and Nation-Building

Module II: Approaches and Debates

This unit will delve into various approaches and debates relating to Ethnicity and Nation. Various thinkers and theories including Primordialism and Constructivism will be discussed in detail. It will also include the Ethnic-Civic dichotomy of nationalism. It will cover:

1. Primordialism
2. Constructivism - Modernism - Instrumentalism
3. Nationalism: Civic vs Ethnic Debate

Module III: Historical Evolution

This unit will describe the historical developments mainly in the medieval and modern Europe that led to emergence of the concepts like nation, nation-state and nationalism. Special attention would be given to the role of ethnicity in this evolution. It will cover:

1. Westphalia and the Nation-State System
2. Rise of Nationalism in Europe
3. Imperialism and World Wars

Module IV: Post-Colonial Experiences

This chapter will look at the process of de-colonisation and its impact on nation-state system. After general introduction to the post-colonial national experiences, select case studies from Asia and Africa will be taken up for in-depth understanding of ethnic conflicts. It will cover:

1. National Struggles for Independence and De-colonisation
2. Post-colonial Nationalisms and Nation-Building
3. Ethnic Cleavages and Conflicts (Selected Case Studies)

Module V: Post-Socialist Experiences

This chapter will deal with the post-Socialist experiences. The Ethnic/National question in the erstwhile multi-ethnic Socialist states like Soviet Union and Yugoslavia will be discussed. Select Case Studies from Eurasia and the Balkans will be studied to understand the Ethno-National complexities of this region. It will cover:

1. Impact of Soviet Nationality Policy
2. Post-Socialist Nation-Building
3. Ethnic Conflicts in Eurasia and the Balkans (Selected Case Studies)

Readings

Module I: Conceptualizing Ethnicity and Nationalism

1. Anderson, Benedict (1983), *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, London: New York: Verso. Chapter 1 “Introduction”, 1-8.
2. Chandra, Kanchan (2006), “What is ethnic identity and does it matter?” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9 (1), 397-424.
3. Connor, Walker (1994), *Ethnonationalism: The Quest for Understanding*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 9 “When is a nation? (a tribe to nation?)”, 210-226.
4. Fearon, James D (1999). “What is identity (as we now use the word).” Unpublished manuscript, Stanford University, Stanford, California, 1-43.
5. Gellner, Ernest (1983), *Nations and Nationalism*, London: Blackwell Publishing, Chap 1.
6. Hale, Henry E. (2004), “Explaining Ethnicity”, *Comparative Political Studies*, 37(4): 458-485.

Module II: Approaches and Debates

1. Breuilly, John (2001), “The State and Nationalism” in Montserrat Guibernau and John Hutchinson (eds.) *Understanding Nationalism*, London: Polity Press.
2. Brubaker, Rogers (2006), *Ethnicity without Groups*, Harvard University Press. Chapter 6 “Ethnic and Civic Nationalism”.
3. Eriksen, Thomas Hylland (1991). “Ethnicity versus nationalism.” *Journal of Peace Research*, 28 (3): 263–278.
4. Evera, Stephen Van (2001), “Primordialism lives!” *APSA-CP: Newsletter of the organized section in comparative politics of American Political Science Association*, 12(1), 20-22.
5. Smith, Anthony D. (2001), *Nationalism: Theory, Ideology, History*, London: Polity Press, Chapter 3 “Paradigms”, 47-66.

Module III: Historical Evolution

1. Anderson, Benedict (1983), *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, London: New York: Verso. (Chapter 2 “Cultural Roots”, pp. 9-36).

- Breuilly, John (2013), "Nationalism and National Unification in Nineteenth-Century Europe", in John Breuilly (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Nationalism*, Oxford Academic, 149-174.
- Brubaker, Roger (1995), "National Minorities, Nationalizing States, and External National Homelands in the New Europe", *Daedalus*, 124(2): 107-132.
- Hobsbown, E. J. (1990), *Nations and Nationalism since 1780: Programme, Myth and Reality*, London: Cambridge University Press, 101-162.
- Hutchinson, John (2001), "Nations and Culture", in Montserrat Guibernau and John Hutchinson (eds.) *Understanding Nationalism*, London: Polity Press.

Module IV: Post-Colonial Experiences

- Geertz, Clifford eds. (1963), *Old Societies and New States: The quest for modernity in Asia and Africa*, New York: The Free Press, 105-157.
- Kothari, Rajni (1976), "Variations and Uniformities in Nation-building", in Rajni Kothari (eds.) *State and Nation-building*, Delhi: Allied Publishers, 1-7.
- Phadnis, Urmila (1990), *Ethnicity and Nation-building in South Asia*, New Delhi: Sage Publications.
- "South African Apartheid: A History of Resistance and Change", *Historical Heralds*, YouTube video (29 mins).
- "Colonial roots of the genocide in Rwanda, *DW Documentary*, YouTube video (1.25 mins).

Module V: Post-Socialist Experiences

- Bremmer, Ian (2003), "Nation and State-building in Eurasia", *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 4(1), Winter-Spring 2003, pp. 29-37.
- Dawisha, Karen & Bruce Parrott (1994), *Russia and the New states of Eurasia, The Politics of Upheaval*, New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-55.
- Khazanov, Anatoly M. (1995), *After the USSR: Ethnicity, Nationalism and Politics in the CIS*, Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, Chapter 1 & 2.
- Patnaik, Ajay (2003), *Nations, Minorities and States in Central Asia*, New Delhi: Anamika Publisher, Chapter 1.
- Vujacic, Veljko (2016), "Kosovo: A Case Study in the unintended consequences of Communist nationality policy: 1968-86" in Leandrit I. Mehmeti and Branislav Redeljik eds. *Kosovo and Serbia: Contested Options and Shared Consequences*, University of Pittsburg Press.

Suggested Readings

Akbarzadeh, Shahram (1996), "Nation-building in Uzbekistan", *Central Asian Survey*, 15(1): 23-32.

Beissinger, Mark R. (2009), "Nationalism and the Collapse of Soviet Communism", *Contemporary European History*, 18(3): 331-347.

Brown, Michael E. (1996), *The International Dimensions of Internal Conflicts*, CSIA: John F. Kennedy School of Government: Harvard University, pp. 1-16.

Fearon, James D and David D Laitin (2011), "Sons of the soil, migrants, and civil war." *World*

Development 39 (2): 199–211.

Habyarimana James et al. (2007), “Why does ethnic diversity undermine public goods provision?” *American Political Science Review* 101 (4): 709–725.

Heywood, Andrew (1992), *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, chapter on Nationalism.

Larson, Jennifer M and Janet I Lewis (2017), “Ethnic networks.” *American Journal of Political Science* 61 (2): 350–364

Mancoff, Jeffrey (2022), “Russia’s War in Ukraine: Identity, History and Conflict”, Washington, D.C. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Mill, John Stuart (2010), “Of Nationality as Connected with Representative Government”, reprinted in Mill (et.al.) *Nation and Nationality (Three Essays)*, New Delhi: Critical Quest.

Oommen, T.K. (1990), *State and Society in India: Studies in Nation-building*, New Delhi: Sage Publication.

Smith, Anthony D. (1988), *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*, Wiley: Blackwell Publishers.

Solchanyk, Roman (1994), “The Politics of State Building: Centre-Periphery Relations in Post-Soviet Ukraine”, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 46(1), pp. 47-68.

Tishkov, Valeriĭ Aleksandrovich (1997), *Ethnicity, nationalism and conflict in and after the Soviet Union : the mind aflame*, London: Sage Publications.

Zhurzhenko, Tatiana (2014), “A Divided Nation? Reconsidering the Role of Identity Politics in the Ukraine Crisis”, *Die Friedens-Warte*, 89(1/2), *Die Ukraine-Krise (2014)*, pp. 249-267