McGill University Winter 2024

POLI 339 NATIONALISM, ETHNICITY, AND THE RADICAL RIGHT IN EUROPE

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Class meets: Tue and Thu, 4:05 pm to 5:25 pm

Class location: BIRKS 203

Office hours: Fri, 10:30 to 11:30

Office location: LEA 330

MyCourses page:

https://mycourses2.mcgill.ca/d2l/home/687345

Course Description and Objectives

What is the impact of ethnic nationalism on European politics and the rise of the radical right? This course offers answers from nationalism studies and empirical political science. The first part of the course explains key concepts and theories about the emergence and history of nationalism. The second part highlights the ethnic components of nationalism and their contribution to radical right attitudes, such as hostility to immigration or minority groups. The third part considers contemporary expressions of ethnic nationalism and the emergence of radical right parties, as well as their interaction with other political forces such as conservative and centre-left parties.

Objectives:

- Become familiar with the main theories and debates in the study of nationalism and the radical right. Relate them to other topics in political science.
- Learn to apply the theoretical lenses to case studies drawn from Western Europe, the Balkans, and the former USSR.
- Be able to navigate empirical political science, including new research in thematic subfield journals on nation and ethnicity.

Generative AI: Learning to synthesize and evaluate readings independently is a fundamental goal of this course. Students may not copy or paraphrase directly from any generative artificial intelligence applications, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the purpose of completing assignments in this course.

Special Needs: As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

Copyright of Lectures: All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Land acknowledgment: McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Course Evaluations: End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

Week 6. Feb 6, Feb 8 Case study: nationalism in post-Soviet Russia

[Article] Shevel, O. (2011). Russian Nation-building from Yel'tsin to Medvedev: Ethnic, Civic or Purposefully Ambiguous? *Europe-Asia Studies*, 63(2), 179–202.

[Chapter] Kolstø, P. "The ethnification of Russian nationalism" in Kolstø, P., & Blakkisrud, H. (Eds.). (2016). *The new Russian nationalism: Imperialism, ethnicity and authoritarianism 2000-15*. Edinburgh University Press, 18-46.

[Chapter] Ponarin, E. and Komin, M. "Imperial and ethnic nationalism: A dilemma of the Russian elite" in Kolstø, P., & Blakkisrud, H. (Eds.). (2018). *Russia before and after Crimea: Nationalism and identity 2010-17*. Edinburgh University Press Ltd, 50-65.

[Article] Laruelle, M. (2016). The three colors of Novorossiya, or the Russian nationalist mythmaking of the Ukrainian crisis. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 32(1), 55–74.

Week 7. Feb 13 Nationalism and mobilization

[Chapter] "The Tide of Nationalism and Mobilization Cycles" in Beissinger, M. R. (2002). *Nationalist mobilization and the collapse of the Soviet State*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 11. Mar 19, Mar 21 Historical extreme right and fascism

[Chapter] Chapter 2. Bobbio, N. (1996). *Left and right: The significance of a political distinction*. Polity Press.

[Chapter] Chapter 2. Griffin, R. (1993). *The nature of fascism*. Routledge, 26-56. [Chapter] Chapter 10. Ziblatt, D. (2017). *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Modern Democracy in Europe (1st ed.)*. Cambridge University Press, 334-363. [Article] Acemoglu, D., De Feo, G., De Luca, G., & Russo, G. (2022). War, Socialism, and the Rise of Fascism: An Empirical Exploration. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 137(2), 1233–1296.

Week 12. Mar 26, Mar 28 Radical right parties and attitudes

[Article] Ignazi, P. (1992). The silent counter-revolution: Hypotheses on the emergence of extreme right-wing parties in Europe. European Journal of Political Research, 22(1), 3–34. [Article] Golder, M. (2016). Far Right Parties in Em2 reW*n3