Globalization and Nationalism
SOC 146b

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International and Global Studies Program

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Office Hours: Tues. & Wed., 2-4 pm

This class, an exercise in comparative and historical sociology, will explore one of the most intriguing paradoxes of world affairs today: why, after decades of globalization, does nationalism seem to be on the rise worldwide? Students will study the social characteristics thought to be typical of globalization – e.g. the decline of traditional authority in favor of individual autonomy, the expansion of global economic ties, and the homogenization of cultures – and will ask whether these traits indicate the decline of national affiliations or, perhaps, their fulfillment. We believe we live in an age of “global citizens.” But what if we live in an age of national citizens -- Chinese, Indian, Russian, American, etc -- who just happen to be widely connected and globally dispersed?

The class will treat nationalism as a social identity with a genealogy that can be traced across modern history. We will study the emergence of this identity in early modern Europe and its impact on both European societies and the societies that Europeans colonized. We will then trace the adoption and adaptation of this identity in non-Western societies, starting with 19th century Japan and following up with its spread of nationalism to China, India, and Korea. We will consider comparative cases of attempts to overcome nationalism, from the self-consciously cosmopolitan centers such as Hong Kong to construction of a common identity for the European Union. We will conclude with a study of particularly robust contemporary nationalisms of China, Russia, India, and the United States.

Learning Goals:

By the end of the class students should be able to:

- Draft accounts of the social foundations of nationalism and globalization and consider the consequences of each for the world in which they will make their careers;
- Identify recurrent nationalist themes among discussions of globalization;
- Appreciate different perspectives on globalization, especially among elites of emerging powers;
• Present contemporary issues of globalization in comparative and historical perspective.

Evaluation:

Grades will be determined as follows:

• Take home midterm on social theories and history of nationalism and globalization; **30 percent**.
• Group presentation on topic related to material from Weeks 7-13: **30 percent**: (Includes grade of responses to other student presentations, to be collected on Latte).
• Final research paper (10-15 pages): **30 percent**.
• Class participation: **10 percent**.

Communications:

Students can write to me at crosen@brandeis.edu and should expect prompt replies to e-mails regarding administrative matters of the course, e.g. whether an extension might be granted. Students should not plan to engage in long discussions of course material over e-mail, but should instead save such questions for class or office hours.

I will communicate to the class as a whole via the messaging service on Latte. These messages will be transmitted as e-mail.

Critical Dates:

Take home midterm on theory: distributed on Feb. 26th and due on March 1.

Class presentation: to be scheduled during the last eight weeks of class.


Four Credit Course

Success in this 4 credit course is based on the expectation that will spend, on average, around 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

Documented Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me after class.

Academic Integrity:
You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS - Library guides.

**Course Materials:**

The course will have one required book:


Other articles will be provided on Latte.

**Part One: Introduction to Concepts**

January 15: Introduction to class

**Jan. 19 & 22: What is Nationalism?**

Jan. 19:  

Benedict Anderson, "Imagined Communities."

Jan. 22:  

Articles by Ernest Gellner.

**Jan. 26 & 29: Nationalism on a Global Scale**

Jan. 26:  


Jan. 29:

Thomas Friedman, "The World Is Flat."


**Feb. 2 & 5**: What is Globalization?

Feb. 2: Economic Integration:

Immanuel Wallerstein, "Globalization or the Age of Transition? A Long-Term View of the Trajectory of the World System."


Feb. 5: Social and cultural transformation


**Feb. 9 & 12**: Globalization: Interpreting the History

Feb. 9: European beginnings


Feb. 12: Britain and France


FEB. 15-19: BREAK

**Feb. 23 & 26:** The Nationalism of European Imperialisms and the First Rebuff

Feb. 23:
Abernethy, David B. *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires, 1415-1980* (Yale UP, 2002). Chapters 7 (pp. 133-172), 14 (pp. 325-344) and 16 (pp. 363-386) (Latte)

Feb. 26:


**Part Two: Topics in Globalization & Nationalism**

**March 1 & 4:** Resisting the West: Nationalism and Decolonization

March 1:


March 4:


Mohandas Gandhi, "Hind Swaraj." Selections.

**March 8 & 11:** Nationalism and Communism: How International was the Internationale?

March 8:
Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto.*

March 11:


**March 15 & 18:** Nationalism, Liberalism, Capitalism, and Americanization

March 15:


March 18:


**March 22:** Overcoming Nationalism? Globalizing Religions as an Alternative to Nationalism


**April 5 & 8:** Overcoming Nationalism? The European Union
April 5:


April 8:

April 12 & 15: Overcoming Nationalism: Global Cities? Hong Kong, Shanghai, Dubai

April 12: Hong Kong and Shanghai


April 15: Dubai


April 19 & 21: The End of the End of the Cold War: Globalization in Competing Nationalisms, cont.

April 19:
Agnes Ku, "Negotiating Law, Rights, and Civil Autonomy: from the Colonial to the Post-Colonial Regime." Remaking Citizenship in Hong Kong: Community, Nation and the Global City (Routledge, 2015).

Brian Leung Kai-ping, Hong Kong Nationalism: published by Undergrad, the University of Hong Kong Student Union magazine, 2015. Translated selections.
April 21:
