Politics, Ethnicity, Nationalism  
Anthropology 4/511  
T-TH: 12-1:50

Prof. Philip Scher  
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Office Hours: Wed. 1:00-4:00pm

Course Description:

This class will explore the relationship between ethnicity, politics and nationalism from both historical and anthropological perspectives. We will deal with both a general history and genealogy of the two main terms, “ethnicity” and “nationalism,” while also addressing the way nationalism and ethnic identity construct and reproduce each other. Our readings will be both theoretical and ethnographic, giving us a chance to look at contemporary and historical examples of the politics of ethnicity.

Required Books:


Course Requirements:

Undergraduate:
There will be five (5) short reading tests throughout the quarter. These tests will consist of two questions and will be only on the readings assigned for that day. However, the tests will be given at the discretion of the instructor and so there will be no advance warning on their administration. It is vital, therefore, that you come prepared and ready to discuss each day’s articles. In addition to these tests there will be a mid-term and a final examination, (you will be expected to answer questions on the films as well as the readings). The short tests will constitute 20% of your grade with the mid term and final each being worth 40%. The readings will amount to approximately 80-90 pages per week, with some weeks having slightly more, some fewer.

Graduate Students:
Graduate students taking the class will be required to write a final, 25 page paper on a topic to be determined in consultation with the professor. Graduate students will not have to take the reading tests or take the exams. In addition graduate students will be expected to do additional reading and research as part of the final project.
Week 1: Definitions Begun
Tues: No Readings
Thurs:
Eriksen: What is Ethnicity? (Chapter 1 in Ethnicity and Nationalism, pp.1-17)

Week 2: Theories of Ethnicity.
Tues.
Film: Ethnic Notions

Thurs:
Eriksen: The Social Organization of Cultural Distinctiveness (Chapter 3).

Week 3: Ethnicity in History and the Modern World
Tues:
Eriksen: Ethnicity in History (Chapter 5).

Thurs:
Eriksen: Ethnic Identity and Ideology (Chapter 4)
Film: The Triumph of Evil

Week 4: Ethnicity & Display.
Tues: Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara: Destination Culture: pp.17-78.
Thurs: Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara: Destination Culture: pp.79-128.

Week 5: Nationalism
Tues: Mid-Term Exam

Thurs:
Eriksen: Nationalism (Chapter 6).
Spencer & Wollman: Introduction

Week 6: Theories of Nationalism
Tues:

Thurs:
Anderson, Benedict: “Imagined Communities” pp. 48-60.
Week 7: Differentiating Nationalism

Tues:
Eriksen: Minorities and the State. Chapter 7
Gilroy, Paul: “Between Camps” pp. 149-162.

Thurs:
Balibar, Etienne: “Racism and Nationalism” pp. 163-172.
Spencer and Wollman: “Good and bad Nationalisms” pp. 197-217.

Week 8: Colonialism, Postcolonialism and the Nation

Tues:
Moore, Margaret: “On National Self-Determination” pp 221-236.

Thurs:

**Film: Savage Acts**

Week 9: Constructing the Nation (Culturally Speaking)

Tues:

Thurs:

Week 10: Beyond Ethnicity and Nationalism?

Tues:
Eriksen: “That which is Not Ethnic” Chapter 8.

Thurs:
Castles, Stephen: Citizenship and the Other in the Age of Migration” pp. 301-316.