The concept of nation has been a major form of collective identity in the modern era. Yet its understanding remains remarkably elusive and its importance has been under-appreciated in comparison to other forms of identity such as class and gender. Nationalism is also among the defining phenomenon of the modern epoch but its origins and politics—despite a burst of recent scholarship—have not been as well conceived as other defining characteristics such as capitalism and revolution. This seminar will survey major works in the study of nations and nationalism from a comparative perspective by focusing on Europe and East Asia.

Format:

This is a reading course, not a research seminar. No research or research paper is required but extensive reading is expected. The course will primarily run in seminar format along with a brief introductory lecture by the instructor. The course requires (1) critical thinking and analytical reading of the works assigned each week; (2) active participation in class discussion; and (3) initiation of discussion in the form of short (5-10 minutes), clearly focused presentations of the assigned readings. It is crucial for students to prepare for class discussion by completing assigned readings before each class time.

Requirements:

Each student is required to submit a total of seven position papers. Each paper must 1) discuss the assigned readings’ main research problem, theoretical aim, and methodological issue and 2) offer the student’s own assessment of the readings with regard to these three areas, indicating both strengths and weaknesses. The paper must be submitted on the day of class, prior to class discussion, to get credit. It should be typed and double-spaced consisting of about one thousand words. Course grade will be based on class presentation and participation (30%) and position papers (70% = 7 x 10%).
Course Schedule

**January 6: Introduction**

No required reading.

Lecture by the instructor

**January 13: How to Study Nations and Nationalism?**


**January 20: Modernist Perspectives**

Ernest Gellner. *Nations and Nationalism*.


**January 27: Nationalism and the Modern State**

Eric Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism since 1780*, pp. 80-100, 163-183

Craig Calhoun, *Nationalism*, Chapter 4


**February 3: Cultural Contexts**

Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities*. 
Suggested Readings: Eric Hobsbawm and Terrence Ranger, eds. The Invention of Tradition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983);

February 10: Primordialist Views


February 17: Nationalism and Development

Liah Greenfeld. The Spirit of Capitalism: Nationalism and Economic Growth (Chs. 1, 2, 4)


February 24: Politics and Conflict

Samuel Huntington. The Clashes of Civilization (Parts 1 and 4)


March 3: Comparative Views: Japan

John Lie. Multiethnic Japan (Chs. 2-5).

Suggested Readings: Harumi Befu, Cultural Nationalism in East Asia (Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, 1993); Kosaku Yoshino, Cultural Nationalism in Contemporary Japan (London: Routledge, 1992);
March 10: Comparative Views: Korea

Gi-Wook Shin. Ethnic Nationalism in Korea (Chs. 4, 5, 8-11).