

NATION-BUILDING IN THE SHADOW OF EMPIRE
New York University-Abu Dhabi, J-Term 2020

Instructor: **Leonid Peisakhin**

Assistant Professor of Political Science

leonid.peisakhin@nyu.edu

Office: 151, Social Science Building, A5

Office Hours: Mondays, 5:00-6:30pm

Time: 9am-12:30pm

Location: A2-017

Course Number: PEACE-UH1117J

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: None

Nation-building is a process that is closely tied to post-colonial state formation across the world. In constructing post-colonial political identities, societies have to define membership in the national community and to distinguish themselves from the former colonial masters and neighboring proto-national communities. The process of defining the national community is usually contested and often leads to violence. In many societies, this process is still ongoing.

In this class, we will examine the process of post-colonial nation building through the prism of a fascinating and topical case-study, that of contemporary Ukraine. Ukraine continues to struggle to define itself *visa-á-vis* its former imperial neighbor Russia. In examining the Ukrainian case study, we will ask what a nation is in the contemporary world, how political identities are created and how they take root, and what role the institutions and culture play in the persistence of durable national identities. We will travel to Ukraine, and students will have a chance to directly interact with political entrepreneurs on the frontlines of nation-building.

Over the course of the class, students will gain a deeper understanding of the concept of nationalism, the forces and processes behind the construction of durable national identities, and a chance to engage with cutting edge methodological questions in the social sciences.

Required readings:

All the readings are available on the Classes server.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course:

- Understanding of the concept of a modern nation, of the origins of national communities, and the processes by which these emerge.
- Appreciation for the role of empires and immediate post-independence institutions in the formation of political identities.
- Understanding of processes by which historically-rooted political identities are transmitted into the present.
- Acquisition of factual knowledge about Ukraine, its population, and contemporary politics.
- Deeper knowledge of post-Soviet politics and the role of Russia in the politics of its “near-abroad.”
- Appreciation for social science methodology and latest literature on historical legacies in political science.

Teaching and Learning Methodologies:

This is a seminar course. There will be no formal lectures in this class. This means that students must come to class prepared, having done the reading and ready to engage in a discussion with their colleagues and the instructor.

Course Requirements:

(i) Attendance and Participation: Given that this is a seminar class that spans several fields across the social sciences and humanities student attendance and active participation in class discussions is essential to the success of the course. Attendance is required. Participation entails active engagement in class discussions and clear effort to engage in a dialogue with fellow students and the instructor.

Grading rubric for participation:

A: Student's comments show that they have prepared the assigned readings by clarifying and articulating the readings' main ideas and arguments. Student's comments and questions are frequent and often affect the direction of the class discussion.

B: Student's comments show that they have completed the assigned reading. Student's comments and questions are occasional and sometimes affect the direction of the class discussion.

C: Student's comments and questions sometimes show that they have completed some of the assigned reading. Student's comments are infrequent and rarely affect the direction of the class discussion.

D: Student attends class regularly but does not participate in the discussion.

(ii) Readings: Class discussion is premised on the assumption that all students do the assigned reading carefully and in full before the class meets.

(iii) Reading responses: Students must submit **two** two-page reading responses (double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins) over the course of the semester. These must be submitted via email **by 11:59pm of the day before class**. You can decide which two sessions you would like to write your reading responses for; it is a good idea to space these out across the semester. A reading response provides an opportunity for you to **reflect on the session's readings**: you are expected to summarize the reading's argument(s), reflect on its persuasiveness and on whether and how it fits with other literature or arguments already covered in the class.

(iv) Essays: You will have to write **two 5-7 page essays** over the course of the semester. All essays are to be submitted via email to the course instructor. Essays are an opportunity for you to make a longer-form argument about the topic under study. Essays must have a clearly articulated thesis and a structured argument marshaling evidence in support of the thesis. You will be expected to directly engage with the relevant literature, which you will have to reference, and to consider alternative arguments. The first essay will build on the literature and class discussions. For the second essay, you will have an opportunity to either write a short research design on a topic relating to the class or a more conventional paper reflecting on the literature. Essays must be double-spaced and written in 12-point Times New Roman font; remember to use section headings, paragraphs, punctuation, and to

number the pages. Each essay must have a list of references. Be sure that your citations and references conform to the Chicago Manual of Style requirements (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html; look under Author-Date citation style).

Deadlines:

(i) *Reading responses*: two-page reading responses can be submitted by 11:59pm a day before any class session. Two of these must be submitted over the course of the semester.

(ii) *Essay 1*: Due by 11:59pm on January 12.

(ii) *Essay 2*: Due by 11:59pm on January 23.

Course Grade:

Participation: 15%

Reading responses: 5% x 2 = 10%

Essay 1: 35%

Essay 2: 40%

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism is a major academic offense with serious penalties. Please consult NYUAD's academic integrity policy and procedures before submitting written work: <https://students.nyuad.nyu.edu/academics/academic-policies/the-nyuad-communitys-commitment-to-integrity/>.

Course Schedule:

INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPTS: IMPERIALISM AND NATIONALISM

Monday, January 6: Colonialism, Nationalism

- Abernethy, David. 2000. *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires, 1415-1980*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, chapter 6: pp.104-132.
- Wimmer, Andreas. 2002. *Nationalist Exclusion and Ethnic Conflict*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, chapter 3 (selections): pp. 52-64, 70-81.

INTRODUCTION TO UKRAINE:

Tuesday, January 7: Introduction to Ukraine

- Magocsi, Paul Robert. 1996. *A History of Ukraine*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 3-24, pp. 331-344.
- von Hagen, Mark. 1995. "Does Ukraine Have a History?", *Slavic Review*, 54 (3): 658-673.

Wednesday, January 8: Ukraine and Empire

- Zenon Kohut. 1986. "The Development of a Little Russian Identity and Ukrainian Nationbuilding," *Harvard Ukrainian Studies* 10 (3/4), pp. 559-576.
- Magocsi, Paul. 1996. *A History of Ukraine*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press pp. 351-355, 360-364.
- Velychenko, Stephen. 1997. "Empire Loyalism and Minority Nationalism in Great Britain and Imperial Russia, 1707 to 1914: Institutions, Laws, and Nationality in Scotland and Ukraine," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 39 (3), pp. 413-441.

Thursday, January 9: Emergence of independent Ukraine at the unmaking of empires:

- Szporluk, Roman. 1997. "Ukraine: From the Imperial Periphery to a Sovereign State," in *Daedalus* 1(3), pp. 85-120.

UKRAINE FIELDTRIP:

Saturday, January 11: Fly to Kyiv.

Sunday, January 12: Kyiv, Ukraine's capital

- Hamm, Michael. 1993. *Kiev: A Portrait, 1800-1917*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 82-116.
- Meir, Natan. 2010. *Kiev: Jewish Metropolis: A History, 1859-1914*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 101-117.

FIRST ESSAY DUE ON JANUARY 12.

Monday, January 13 [morning train to Lviv]: Lviv, the heart of Galicia

- Amar, Tarik. 2015. *The Paradox of Ukrainian Lviv: a borderland city between Stalinists, Nazis, and nationalists*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 22-43, 185-220.

Tuesday, January 14 [night train to Odessa]: Galician political identity

- Himka, John-Paul. 1999. "Construction of Nationality in Galician Rus': Ikarian Flights in Almost all Directions," in *Intellectuals and the Articulation of the Nation*, Kennedy, Michael and Ronald G. Suny, eds. (Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press, 1999), pp. 109-154.

Wednesday, January 15: Odessa, a multicultural jewel in Russia's imperial crown

- Herlihy, Patricia. 2018. *Odessa Recollected: The Port and the People*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, pp. 2-26, 117-136.

Thursday, January 16 [flight back to UAE]: Post-imperial Divisions

- No readings

UKRAINE CASE-STUDY CONTINUED:

Sunday, January 19: Ukraine in the Soviet Union

- Kostomarov, Mykola. 1996 [1861]. "Two Rus' Nationalities" in Ralph Lindheim and George Luckyj, eds. *Towards an Intellectual History of Ukraine*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 122-134.
- Magosci, Paul Robert. 1989. "The Ukrainian National Revival: A New Analytical Framework" in *The Roots of Ukrainian Nationalism: Galicia as Ukraine's Piedmont*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 38-54.

Monday, January 20: Nationalism and Post-Communism

- Applebaum, Anne. 2017. *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*. New York: Doubleday, chapter 9 and Epilogue: pp. 205-221, 346-360.
- Zhuk, Sergei. 2008. "Religion, 'Westernization,' and Youth in the 'Closed City' of Soviet Ukraine, 1964-84," *Russian Review* 67, pp. 661-679

Tuesday, January 21: Formation of Post-Imperial Political Identities in Ukraine

- Darden, Keith and Anna Grzymala-Busse. 2006. "The Great Divide: Literacy, Nationalism, and the Communist Collapse" in *World Politics* 59: 83-115.

Wednesday, January 22: Historical Legacies

- Peisakhin, Leonid. Book Manuscript. *Invisible Boundaries: Cultural Legacies and Long-Term Persistence of Political Identities*, selections (TBC).

Thursday, January 23:

- Nunn, Nathan. 2014. "Historical Development." In Philippe Aghion and Steven Durlauf, eds., *The Handbook of Economic Growth*, volume 2., pp. 347-369, 376-385.

FINAL ESSAY DUE ON JANUARY 23.