

HIST 7923  
Fall 2015  
Mon 3 – 6 pm  
Himes 221B

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Himes 217F  
Office Hours: Mon & Wed 1:30-3pm  
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## **Nationalism and Communism in Modern Europe**

This graduate-level reading course examines the history of modern Europe through the lens of its two main competing models for political and social order: nationalism and communism. While nationalism posits the organization of states and societies typically along ethno-linguistic divides, communism deprecates cultural ties and foresees a class-based, proletarian-led worldwide revolution for human emancipation. Both models exhibited immense variation in practice, often betraying their own goals, and the two seemingly opposed ideologies also co-existed for extensive periods in the same place.

This course will integrate theoretical readings on socialism and nationalism with historiography covering Europe in a broad geographic frame. Significant emphasis will be given to Eastern Europe, where the battle lines (and interactions) between socialism and nationalism were strongest. Primary sources will also be consulted – specifically relating to the experience of communism.

Assignments will focus on argumentation in the format of book reviews. We will discuss the book review genre and will build up from basic reviews to more advanced historiographical analyses. Students will be required to revise their writing for their major assignment, and to grade other students' work. Students will also be responsible for leading discussion one week.

### **Assignment Breakdown:**

- Two review 'outlines' x 5% = 10%
- Two 'outlines' with 800-word review x 10% = 20%
- One 800-word review = 10%
- Discussion leadership = 10%
- Participation = 20%
- One review article (15-20 pp.) = 30%

All grades will be given on a 100-point scale and then weighted according to the above percentage. Final grades will be calculated as such:

97-100: A+ | 93-97: A | 90-92: A- | 87-89: B+ | 83-86: B | 80-82: B- | 77-79: C+ | 73-76: C | 70-72: C- | 67-69: D+ | 63-66: D | 60-62: D- | 0-59: F

**Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be punished by failure of the assignment or course, and submission for disciplinary action, depending upon the case. If you are unsure of standards, please ask.**

The following books can be purchased at the LSU Bookstore. You are not required to buy them; however, you should have your own copy (digital or print) available in class to consult.

- *The Marx-Engels Reader*
- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
- Linda Colley, *Britons*
- EP Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*
- Eugen Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen*
- Kristin Ross, *Communal Luxury*
- Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls*
- Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts*
- Francine Hirsch, *Empire of Nations*
- Holly Case, *Between States*
- Edith Sheffer, *Burned Bridge*
- Todd Shepard, *Invention of Decolonization*
- Paulina Bren, *The Greengrocer and His TV*

Readings marked with a \* will be made available on Moodle.

### **8/24 | Introduction**

*No reading*

### **8/31 | Marxist Theory**

- Marx, *The German Ideology, The Communist Manifesto, Wage Labor & Capital*
- \* Lenin, *What is To Be Done?*

### **9/14 | Nationalist Theory**

- Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
- \* Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, excerpts
- \* Brubaker, *Ethnicity Without Groups*, Ch. 1

*Assignment: Bring in two copies of a 'good' book review – from any major journal, of any recent historical book.*

### **9/21 | The Making of Britain**

- Colley, *Britons*

*Review Outline #1 Due*

### **9/28 | Making the British Worker**

- Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*
- \* Mill, *Principles of Political Economy*, Bk. IV, Ch. V

*Review Outline #2 Due*

### **10/5 | State-driven nationalism**

- Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen*

*Outline with Short Review #1 Due*

**10/12 | Parisian Socialist Visions**

- Ross, *Communal Luxury*

*Outline with Short Review #2 Due*

**10/19 | National Indifference**

- Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls*

*Short Review Due*

**10/26 | Undoing Diversity**

- Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts*, Intro, Pts II-III

*Grading of short reviews*

**11/2 | Ethnography, Communism, and the Nation**

- Hirsch, *Empire of Nations*

*Review article prospectus due*

**11/9 | Nation-Building and Nazi Empire**

- Case, *Between States*

*Workshopping prospectuses*

**11/16 | Two Nations, One Country?**

- Sheffer, *Burned Bridge*

\* Sammartino, "We are the State we Seek" (*review article*)

**11/23: Decolonization and the Nation**

- Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization*

*Draft of review article due (min 8 pages)*

**11/30: Late Communism**

- Bren, *The Greengrocer and his TV*

\* Havel, *The Power of the Powerless*, Chs. 1-4, 10-14

**Final Papers Due Monday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m.**