

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

**Academic School / Department:** Social Sciences and Humanities

**Programme:** International History  
Political Science  
International Relations

**FHEQ Level:** 5

**Course Title:** Nationalism and Conflict

**Course Code:** HST 5110

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits  
6 ECTS credits  
3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course addresses nationalism and related conflicts in the 20th Century. Key events are covered, particularly the World Wars and the Cold War, while engaging with the ideological currents that influenced nationalist movements. Different historical interpretations of this material are addressed, while the concepts 'nation' and 'nationalism' are explored in detail. A range of C20th historical contexts are used to develop related themes such as imperialism, independence, revolutions, fascism, communism, democracy, and dissent.

### **Prerequisites:**

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To familiarize students with debates and problems in international history concerning the concept of nationalism
- To engage with gain a variety of processes that have shaped nationalism during the short twentieth century, particularly the roles of ideology and conflict
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in international history
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

**Programme Outcomes:**

International History A5(i); A5(iii); B5(i); B5(ii); C5(i); C5(ii); C5(iii); D5(i); D5(ii)

Political Science: A5i, B5i, C5ii, C5iii, D5i, D5ii, D5iii

International Relations: A5i, B5i, C5ii, C5iii, D5i, D5ii, D5iii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to

- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of various debates surrounding the concept of Nationalism
- Demonstrate the similarities and differences between Nationalisms in historical context
- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the problems of constructing histories of Nationalism
- Demonstrate the accumulation of a detailed body of historical knowledge related to nationalism and conflict in at least three states/nations/peoples in the C20th.
- Present research orally in a convincing and accessible manner.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

**Indicative Content:**

- Different definitions of nationalism employed by various theorists and historians
- Engaging with nationalism as it relates to questions of race, religion, ethnicity, language, culture
- Understanding the importance of nationalism and nationalist movements within the wider context of International Relations in this period
- Exploration of different forms of nationalism in this period
- Changing historical interpretations of nationalism and conflict
- Understanding of historical developments relating to nationalism and conflict in at least 3 case study countries

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning.

**Indicative Texts:**

U. Özkirimli, *Theories of Nationalism: A Critical Introduction*, Palgrave, London, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2017  
 D. Smith, *Nationalism: Theory, Ideology, History*, Polity Press, London, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2010.  
 Anderson, B. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, Verso, London, Revised ed. 2017.  
 E. Hobsbawm and T. Ranger (eds), *The Invention of Tradition*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Reissue 2012.

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	

