Comparative Nation-Building

Nation-building refers to the crafting and implementation of a national (state-wide) identity for a multiethnic state. Alternatively, nation-building connotes the imposition of a new political order on a militarily defeated state by an external power. In this course, the focus will be on the first definition of nation-building unless the state being rebuilt from outside is multiethnic. Current nation-building efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq are relevant to this class while earlier nation-building in Germany and Japan will not be covered.

The first half of the course surveys the history of nation-building from its origins in Europe and the Americas to the creation of new nation-states in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The second half of the course tackles concrete theoretical and practical problems of nation-building. Each set of readings is organized around one aspect of nation-building: military intervention, rule of law, assimilation, governance, institutional design, and economic development. We will flesh out these discussions with examples from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Moreover, students will be given the analytic tools necessary to compare political developments beyond Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

Course Requirements:
Students will turn in midterm and final exams (both take-home) and a research paper. Exam questions will be distributed in class a week before each exam.

Grading:
Midterm 25% Due Feb. 23 at the beginning of class.
Final 35% Due May 12 at noon.
Paper Proposal 5% Due March 8 at the beginning of class.
Paper 25% Due May 5 at the beginning of class.
Participation 10%

Required Books (Available for purchase at the SIU Bookstore):
**Course Schedule:**

**Part I: Conceptual framework and historical background**

January 19  **Introductory lecture**

January 21  **What is nation-building?**


January 26  **Europe and the United States**

Huntington, “Political Modernization: America vs. Europe,” pp. 93-139.

January 28  **Creating Frenchmen?**


February 2  **Discussion: Creating Syrian Minorities?**


February 4, 9  **Decolonization: Nation-Building in the New States**


February 11  **Assimilation**


February 16  **Creating an Inclusive Iraqi Identity?**


* Materials available on the library’s online reserves. From the library homepage (lib.siu.edu), click on “books and more” and then “course reserves and e-reserves,” and finally select POLS 357 from the pull down menu. You will need to enter your dawgtag to access the materials.
Part II: Theoretical and practical aspects of nation-building

February 18  Fact-finding and Preparation

February 23  Afghanistan before the Soviet Invasion

February 25  Discussion: Syria under the Assad Family

March 1, 3  External Military Intervention

March 8, 10  Security and Rule of Law

March 15, 17  Spring Break

March 22  Counter-Insurgency: Afghanistan and Iraq

March 24  Discussion: Inside the Syrian Conflict

March 29, 31  Governance and Political Institutions
April 5  Discussion: A Democratic Afghanistan and Iraq?

April 7, 12, 14  Institutional Design for Multiethnic Societies

April 19  Discussion: Constitutional Design in Afghanistan

April 21  Discussion: A Post-Asaad Syria?
Readings TBA

April 26, 28, May 3  Economic Development

May 5  Discussion: What are the prospects for economic development in Afghanistan and Iraq?
*Christopher Hitchens, “How to Win Afghanistan’s Opium War, Slate, Oct. 6, 2008.