SEMESTER ONE 2025-2026

ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

IP2-39920: NATIONALISM IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Time allowed: **2 HOURS**

Please answer **2** questions: **ONE** question from Section A and **ONE** question from Section B.

STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THIS PAPER IN EITHER WELSH OR ENGLISH

Once seated, students may complete the front cover of the answer book(s) and the attendance slip ONLY.

DO NOT TURN THE EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER OVER UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

SECTION A

1. ‘Nationalism demands the nation-state; the creation of the nation-state strengthens nationalism. Here, as elsewhere in history, we find a continuous interdependence and interaction.’ (Kohn, 1994 in Hutchinson & Smith, 1994: 24) Critically discuss.

2. In 1992, Hobsbawm argued that nationalism was ‘past its peak’: ‘The owl of Minerva which brings wisdom, said Hegel, flies out at dusk. It is a good sign that it is now circling round nations and nationalism.’ Do you agree?

3. Is it possible to theorise nations and nationalism?

4. ‘Daily, the nation is indicated, or “flagged”, in the lives of its citizenry. Nationalism, far from being an intermittent mood in established nations, is the endemic condition.’ (Billig, 1995: 6). Critically discuss.

5. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Adrian Hasting’s perennialist explanation of the nation.

6. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the modernist approach to nations and nationalism.

7. Are nations a natural and universal phenomenon, and an extension of kinship and family relations? Critically discuss.

8. Critically evaluate the usefulness of the distinction between civic and ethnic understandings of nationhood and forms of nationalism with reference to **at least one case study.**

SECTION B

1. What are the implications of the rise of populist parties for contemporary politics? Discuss in relation to **at least one** case study.

2. Does Hindu nationalism challenge the notion of 'Unity in Diversity' and secular nationalism in India? If so, how?

3. Are contemporary populist movements across Europe and the West comparable? Discuss in relation to **at least two** case studies.

4. 'Nationalism has been defined as a patriarchal project that opposes the needs of the women and the goals of gender equality.' (Chrisman, 2004: 188). Do you agree with this definition?

5. 'A variety of cultural, legal and political discourses are used in constructing boundaries of nations […] As the biological "producers" of children/people, women are also, therefore, "bearers of the collective" within these boundaries' (Yuval-Davis, 1997: 26). Critically discuss.

6. 'As the case of Hindutva in India illustrates, violence against minorities is normalized in the name of personal, communal, national and even international security.' (Anand, 2005: 212) Critically discuss.

7. How did nationalism contribute to the break-up of Yugoslavia?

8. 'Beyond the fact that these parties emerged in response to centre-periphery tensions, it is impossible to talk of stateless nationalist parties as constituting one, homogenous party family'. Critically discuss with reference to **at least two** stateless nationalist parties.

9. How do femonationalist discourses reinforce gendered and racialised power structures, and hence patriarchal and heteronormative values?

10. What is the relationship between nationalism and decolonisation and postcolonial state formation? Discuss in relation to **at least one** case study.

11. What role does space and territory play in the rhetoric of far-right parties and movements?

END OF PAPER