

SOC40620 — Nationalism and Social Change

Module Information	
Module Code	SOC40620
Module Title	Nationalism and Social Change
Department	Sociology
Year Group	MSc Comparative Social Change
Module Personnel	Iarfhlaith Watson (UCD) and Sinisa Malesevic (UCD)
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10 ECTS
Semester	Spring Trimester / Hilary Term
Contact Hours	2 lectures/seminars per week

Module Content	
Module Description	This is a seminar and discussion-based module that explores the key theoretical approaches in the study of nations and nationalisms. The focus is on understanding the sociological foundations of the large-scale historical changes that have shaped the world over the last three hundred years. The module provides a thematic survey of these long-term historical developments with a spotlight on the relationships between nationalism and social change. More specifically the module addresses the cultural, political, economic, and social aspects of nation-formation in Europe and other continents.
Module Learning Aims	The module aims to examine major research traditions in the study of nations and nationalisms, and to relate these approaches to other key themes in sociology.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of the module the students are expected to be able to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the main sociological approaches in the study of nations and nationalisms, evaluate the role modernity has played in nation-state formation and appraise the general relationships between nationalism and social change in the broader historical and geographical contexts.

Module Content

Indicative Reading / Resources

U. Özkirimli (2017) 'Introduction' in his *Theories of Nationalism*. 3rd revised edition. New York: Palgrave. pp 1-10.

R. Jenkins (2008) 'Identity Matters' in his *Social Identity* 3rd edition. London: Routledge, pp. 1-15.

R. Brubaker (2004) *Ethnicity without Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (Chapters 2 and 3).

S. Malešević (2019) 'Introduction: The Tenacity of Nationalisms' in his *Grounded Nationalisms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 1-16.

S. Malešević (2006) 'Ethnic and National Identity: The Conceptual Critique' in *his Identity as Ideology: Understanding Ethnicity and Nationalism*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

S. Malešević (2013) 'The Salience of Nationalism' in his *Nation-States and Nationalisms: Organisation, Ideology and Solidarity*. Cambridge: Polity.

Assessment

Assessment Components

end-of-term essay /3000 words/ (60%), weekly reading summaries (20%) and active participation (20%).

Assessment Details

Additional Information

Prerequisites

None.

Co-requisites

None.

Any other information

None.