In this course we will examine “nations” and “states” from an anthropological perspective. We will trace the emergence of the nation-state in Europe and its dissemination around the globe, with particular emphasis on national communities and state ideology in the Muslim world.

Books

Articles
Grades

Students will be evaluated through four papers. The first will be worth 10% of the course grade; the final three will be worth 30% each. The first three papers will be six pages and will focus on the course readings. The final paper will be 15 pages and will apply the course readings to the case of a specific nation state approved by the instructor. The second and third papers will be peer reviewed, with peers deciding 5% of the grade and the professor the other 25%. Students unable to complete both the second and third papers may substitute one for the other, with a 5% penalty. There is no substitute for the first paper or the final paper.

Schedule of readings and assignments

April 3  Introduction: no reading assignment
April 10 Classic States: Stein and Manzanilla; adopt countries to study
April 17 Contemporary States: Silverstein, Zubaida, Trouillot (paper due)
April 24 Nations in the European Heartland: Anderson
May 1  Nations on the Move: Shryock, Crawford, Hammoudi (paper due)
May 8  Ideal States and Nationalist Ideology I: Desai
May 15 Ideal States and Nationalist Ideology II: Pipes (paper due)
May 22 Anarchy, Anthropology, and Nation-States: Lowie, Graeber
May 29 Memorial Day Holiday
June 5  Presentations of final projects (Paper due)