PS 139-02 SEM: States, Nations and the Politics of Citizenship Rules

Spring term, 2011
Tuesdays 1:30 - 4:00 (Block 6)
Packard Hall conference room

Professor: Oxana Shevel
Office: Packard 308
E-mail: oxana.shevel@tufts.edu
Phone: 627-2658
Office hours: Tue 4-5:30pm and by appointment (usually on Thursdays or Fridays)
Course website accessible through http://blackboard.tufts.edu/

Course description and objectives

How do states decide who has the right to citizenship? For modern nation-states, defining the boundaries of the nation in whose name the state is constituted has always been a critically important task. For today's states hosting large numbers of immigrants and minorities, this question remains highly salient, and often politically contested. In this course we will examine the politics of citizenship policymaking in modern states, paying particular attention to alternative theoretical explanation. Are citizenship rules determined primarily by material considerations, such as economic, demographic, and security concerns? Or perhaps by ideational considerations, such as prevailing images of the nation and normative ideals? Do international norms and standards constrain and inform citizenship policymakers today, and if so how? As the world globalizes, does the relevance of national citizenship decline? What are the current trends and trajectories of citizenship rules around the globe? Are citizenship politics and policies fundamentally different in democratic and authoritarian states? In western and non-western states? This course engages recent work in political science and related disciplines addressing these questions. We will also analyze contemporary and historical citizenship policies in various countries in the world, paying particular attention to Western and Eastern Europe and North America.

The course is a seminar, so class time will be devoted exclusively to the discussion of the assigned readings, rather than to lecturing on my part. This means that you should read the assigned material for the week before coming to class, and come prepared to actively participate in the discussion of the week's readings. This is a reading-intensive course. You are expected to read and discuss between 130 to 200-plus pages each week, in addition to class assignments. If you don't read, you will get little out of the class, and the quality of discussion for all will suffer. Those unable to commit to reading should NOT take the class.

Course requirements

Class participation 15%
Weekly discussion questions 10%
Reaction paper 15%
Research paper proposal 5%
Paper discussant 5%
Final research paper 50%
All assignments will be given a numerical grade on the following scale:

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Important dates and deadlines:

- 9am day of class: Discussion question due on Blackboard
- 3pm Mondays: Reaction papers due to me as email attachment
- March 11: Paper proposal due in my office and via Blackboard dropbox by 10am
- March 22: No class (Spring break)
- May 9: Final paper due in my office and via Blackboard dropbox by 5pm

**Attendance and active participation:** You will be evaluated on your attendance, the quality of your preparation and involvement in discussion, and your diligence in meeting deadlines and posting discussion questions (see below). More than one absence without a proper excuse will affect your participation grade, and absence from four or more classes will automatically result in a failing grade. Students arriving late will generally be counted as absent.

**Reaction paper:** Each student will write a short reaction papers to the readings (4-6 double-spaced pages) and present it in class to start off the discussion. You will select the week for your reaction papers during the 2nd class meeting. A guide to writing effective discussion paper will be posted to the Blackboard under Assignments. Late papers will be marked down.

**Weekly discussion questions:** In weeks when you are not writing a reaction paper, you have to post on Blackboard one discussion question on the readings. While clarifying questions are acceptable on occasion, aim for more thought-provoking questions that tap into the broader issues/theories/debates addressed in the week's readings. The questions will be graded either “check”, “check minus” or “check-plus,” the last grade being reserved for particularly thoughtful and illuminating questions. You will receive an A for this part of the course if your questions average a “check”. Each check-minus (that is not offset by a check-plus) will reduce your grade by half a grade (i.e. 9 checks and 1 check-minus will earn you an A-). Not submitting a question at all will reduce your grade by a full letter grade for each missed week.

**Research paper:** The main requirement for the course is a 15-20 page research paper. In this paper you will have to analyze citizenship policies in one or several countries of your choice and explicitly evaluate the explanatory power of two (or more) theories we studied in the course. Your paper should not just describe citizenship acquisition rules in your chosen country but should instead identify some contested and/or puzzling development – perhaps a recent policy change (or planned change) that generated domestic debate, or a failed attempt to change some element of citizenship policy – and examine the politics around this development. A 2-3 page paper proposal will be due March 11, a complete rough draft of the paper has to be circulated to class before your paper presentation during the last two weeks of the semester, and final paper is due May 9. Further specifics of the paper assignment will be announced and discussed in class several weeks into the semester and posted to Blackboard.
**Paper discussant:** The last two meetings will be run as a research workshop, where each of you will benefit from group discussion of your paper. Each student will serve as a discussant on the paper by one other fellow student. The discussant’s task is to offer a short but substantive written critique of a fellow student's rough draft (2-3 double-spaced pages) and to lead off group discussion of the paper with the prepared critique. Guidelines and helpful hints on this assignment will be provided ahead of time.

**Course policies**

**Late and make-up policy.** Absences will be excused and requests for extensions and make-ups considered only if you have a documented valid excuse (such as illness, family or personal emergency, religious holiday, or university business) and inform me promptly (usually prior to the start of that day's class in case of absences). Extensions will not be given due to general pressures of academic life such as exams and assignments due in other classes, or due to computer failures. Students who miss class are responsible for keeping track of any announcements, including possible changes in the syllabus, made in class.

**Blackboard.** We will use Blackboard extensively in this course. It is your responsibility to make sure your correct email address is entered in Blackboard, as you are responsible for receiving and reading emails and announcements that I send to the class via Blackboard.

**Academic dishonesty.** There will be a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. If a student’s work is suspected of not being original, Turn-it-in.com will be used to investigate the case. Per Tufts policy, any instance of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs office. All students must familiarize themselves with Tufts policy on academic integrity (hyperlinks to documents on Blackboard under “Course Documents”).

**Course readings**

The following books are required and should be purchased at the bookstore or elsewhere. They will also be placed on reserve at Tisch.


In addition, required articles and other readings will be available through Blackboard course page (marked BB on the syllabus). To save a tree and save you some money, I have not put together a course pack.

A list of useful online resources on citizenship is on Blackboard under External Links.
COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: the syllabus may change as the semester progresses. Updates/changes will be announced in class as well as posted on Blackboard. Please treat the version on Blackboard as the most up-to-date, and thus definitive, version.

#1. Tue, Jan 25. Introduction to the course.

No readings assigned.

#2. Tue, Feb 1. The meaning of citizenship, past and present.

* The first week to post your weekly discussion question on Blackboard by 9am. *

* No discussion papers this week. You will select the weeks for your reaction papers in class today. *

3. Howard, pp. 3-8.

#3. Tue, Feb 8. Citizenship rights and principles in the international law and in current global practices.

# 4. Tue, Feb 15. Debating the relevance of national citizenship in the age of globalization.

4. Joppke ch. 3-4, pp. 73-144; ch. 6, pp. 162-172.


#6. Tue, Mar 1. The politics of citizenship policy II: historical and institutional legacies and citizenship rules.


#7. Tue, Mar 8. The politics of citizenship policy III: organized interests and citizenship rules.

* Research paper abstract and preliminary bibliography due in my office and via Dropbox on Blackboard this week (by 10am Friday, March 11) *

1. Howard ch. 3, pp. 52-69.


**#8. Tue, Mar 15. Cases I: citizenship policies and politics the US and other settler societies.**

1. Janoski, ch. 4, pp. 89-123.

**Tue, Mar. 22. NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK**


2. Howard, ch. 4-7, pp. 73-168.
3. Janoski, ch. 5-6, pp. 127-186 (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium)


#12. Tue, Apr 19. Student paper presentations

#13. Tue, Apr 26. Student paper presentations.

* FINAL PAPER DUE BY 5PM MONDAY, MAY 9, IN MY OFFICE AND ALSO VIA BLACKBOARD DROPBOX *