Lecture Notes 4/1/03: Finno-Ugric Epic and Nationalism

I. Finno-Ugric Epic and Nationalism
   a. What does Finno-Ugric mean?
   b. What is an epic?
   c. What is nationalism?
   d. Ethnicity, culture, politics

II. What does Finno-Ugrian mean?
   a. Ethnic concept
      i. Contrastive Markers
      ii. Collective Belonging
   b. Linguistic affinity among Finno-Ugric Peoples—scholarly term
   c. Cultural affiliation among Finno-Ugrians
   d. Political History of Finno-Ugrians

III. What is an epic?
   a. Epic: A long narrative poem, on a grand scale, telling about the deeds of heroes. Its narrative includes myth, legend, folk tales and history. Epic often is “national,” because it speaks about the heroes of a particular people
      i. Primary Epic
      ii. Secondary or literary Epic
   b. The Finno-Ugric Epics
      i. Kalevala (1835, 1849)
      ii. Kalevipoeg (1862)
      iii. Päiven pärne’ (1849)
   c. Finno-Ugric Culture and Epic
      i. Hunter-gatherer pre-historic cultures
      ii. Folklore
      iii. Singing Traditions
      iv. Ingredients for Epic

IV. What is nationalism?
   a. Nationalism is a shared belief in the collective agency of a “we” defined by its cultural and political unity.
   b. Historical concept
      i. Ancien Regime
         1. Swedish empire
         2. Russian
      ii. Age of Nationalism
         1. French Revolution 1789
         2. Vertical relations
         3. Horizontal relations
   c. Imagined community
      i. Institutions
      ii. Language
      iii. Cultural belonging
         1. Tradition
         2. Ethnicity
V. Ethnicity, Culture, and Politics
   a. Finno-Ugric Peoples and their Past
   b. Intersection of cultural past and political present
   c. The Rise of “Imagined Communities”