SYLLABUS

PCS Research Methodology (520000):
Introduction to Conflict and Contentious Politics

Fall 2019
Wednesday, 1st and 2nd periods, Room 406

Professor Yasuyuki Matsunaga
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Office Hours (Room 524): Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00-12:30

GOALS

This seminar introduces social scientific approaches to conflict and contentious politics to the first-year PCS students. The course is not a survey; rather, it is intended to be a collective engagement with analytical issues and several key substantive issue areas of contemporary importance in the field of peace and conflict studies. Its primary purpose is to help sharpen the participants’ analytical perspectives on real-world issues. Together with its follow-up course to be offered in the Spring Term by the same instructor (Conflict and Social Change: Advanced Seminar on Conflict and Contentious Politics), this seminar aims to help the participants reshape their own M.A. thesis project.

REQUIREMENTS

The participants are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss the materials. To facilitate this, a set of “reading assignment” questions will be distributed for each week's required readings. You are required to send in your written answers to those questions via email to matsunaga@tufs.ac.jp no later than 9 p.m. on the day before each class meeting.

Your answers (to be saved as a Word document) must be (1) zero- or single-spaced, (2) typed with a small font (e.g., 10.5 Times New Roman) and narrow margins (e.g., 12.7 mm), and (3) no more than a single page when printed out. The file name should be “your first name_RA1” (for reading assignment #1) and so forth. Please note that your answers may not be too short (the expected minimum word count is 800 to 1,000), and are expected to be well thought out and nuanced (there is no need to send your answers early; feel free to keep revising them until the deadline). You are also expected to write primarily in your own words; when you refer to the passages in the required readings, you are expected not to quote verbatim but to paraphrase them.

The instructor will not refer to your submitted answers during the class discussions. It is, therefore, your responsibility to bring your own copy of your submitted answers so that you may be able to bring them up orally during the class discussion. In addition, you are expected to bring up your own questions about the readings and other ideas during the class discussion.

This is a seminar, and therefore the most important requirement is active, informed participation in class discussion. Needless to say, full attendance is mandatory (there are ways not to get sick on school days!). There will be two open-book in-class examinations: the midterm (November 27) and the final (January 22). Bring your laptop to the class on these two days.
GRADING POLICY

Weekly assignments and class participation: 50%;
Midterm and final examinations: 50%.

OVERALL SCHEDULE

Week 1 (October 2) Course Orientation (Goals and Requirements).
Week 2 (October 9): The Goal and Methods of the Social Science
Week 3 (October 16): Four Major Meta-Theoretical Traditions
Week 4 (October 23): Approaches to Social Violence
Week 5 (October 30): Group Identity and Mobilization
Week 6 (November 6): Ethnicity, Ethnic Groups, Nations, and Nationalism
Week 7 (November 13): Actor Constitution and Contentious Interaction

[School Break: November 19 through 25]

Week 8 (November 27) In-class midterm examination

Week 9 (December 4): Political Regimes, Political Context, and Group Conflict
Week 10 (December 11): Approaches to Big Political Events and Political Change
Week 11 (December 18): Culture and Contentious Interaction

[December 15: no class; December 26 through January 3: Winter Break]

Week 12 (January 8): Social Boundaries and Difference-Based Interactions
Week 13 (January 15): Nonviolence as Strategy and Contentious Politics

Week 14 (January 22): In-class final examination

MOODLE

The assigned readings and some of the recommended materials are posted in the TUFS Moodle site below.

You will need the university-provided account to access the Moodle site.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Week 1 (October 2): Course Orientation; no reading

Week 2 (October 9): The Goal and Methods of the Social Science

Required Readings:


Recommended Further Readings:

Mahoney, James, and Gary Goertz. 2006. “A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research,” *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-249. [available on Moodle]


Useful References:


Week 3 (October 16): Four Major Meta-Theoretical Traditions

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Week 4 (October 23): Approaches to Social Violence

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


Week 5 (October 30): Group Identity and Mobilization

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


Week 6 (November 6): Ethnicity, Ethnic Groups, Nations, and Nationalism

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Week 7 (November 13): Actor Constitution and Contentious Interaction

**Required Readings:**

McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. 2001. *Dynamics of Contention* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press), Ch. 1 (pp. 3-9) and Ch. 5 (pp. 124-151).

**Recommended Readings:**


November 20: School holiday—no class

Week 8 (November 27): In-class Midterm Examination

[Please bring your laptop computer to the classroom. If you don’t have a laptop, please arrange with Ishida-san in advance so that you may borrow one.]
Week 9 (December 4): Political Regimes, Political Context, and Group Conflict

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Week 10 (December 11): Approaches to Big Political Events and Political Change

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press.


Week 11 (December 18): Culture and Contentious Interaction

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald, eds. 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.


December 25: no class; School break: December 22 through January 3

Week 12 (January 8): Social Boundaries and Difference-Based Interactions

**Required Readings:**


Recommended Readings:


Week 13 (January 15): Nonviolence as Strategy and Contentious Politics

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Week 14 (January 22): In-class Final Examination