SYLLABUS

PCS Seminar 1
Introduction to Conflict and Contentious Politics

Fall 2015

Class meetings: Mondays, 8:30 -11:40, at Room 406
Professor Yasuyuki Matsunaga <matsunaga@tufs.ac.jp>
Office hours (at Room 524): Mon., Tue., Wed., and Thurs., 12:00–12:30
TA: TBA
TA session (at Room 406): TBA.

GOALS:

This seminar aims at introducing to the first-year PCS students social scientific approaches to conflict and contentious politics. The course is not a survey; rather, it is intended to be a collective engagement with analytical issues and several key substantive issue areas in the field with the purpose of sharpening the participants’ analytical perspectives. Together with the follow-up course (titled Advanced Seminar on Conflict and Contentious Politics) by the same instructor and to be offered in the Spring semester, this seminar is intended to help the participants reshape their own thesis project.

REQUIREMENTS:

For each week's required readings, a set of “reading assignment” questions will be distributed in advance. You are then 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) single-spaced, (2) typed with a small font (10.5 Times New Roman) and narrow margins, and (3) no more than a single page. 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, and are expected to be well thought out and nuanced.

In addition, the participants are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss the materials, with their own questions and additional ideas noted. 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 will be an open-book in-class midterm examination at the end of the first half (see below).

SCHEDULE:

| Oct. 5 | Week 1:  | General Orientation |
| Oct. 12 | Week 2: | Social Scientific Methods |
| Oct. 19 | Week 3: | Approaches to Conflict |
| Oct. 26 | Week 4: | Group Identity, Mobilization, and Political Violence |
| Nov. 2 | Week 5: | Regimes, Political Opportunity, and Contentious Politics |
| Nov. 9 | Week 6: | Symbolic Action and Nonviolence as Contentious Interaction |
| Nov. 16 | Week 7: | In-class final examination |

GRADING POLICY:

Weekly assignments and class participation: 50%; in-class final examination: 50%:
QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

You can send your questions about the course and the reading materials via email to the teaching assistant (TA) or the instructor. We will try to respond to them as promptly as possible. If you prefer to ask questions face-to-face, attend the TA session on Mondays (make sure to tell him in advance that you are attending his session each week; otherwise there will be no TA session), or visit the instructor’s office during his office hours (no appointment is necessary).

If you want to get hold on some of the recommended readings, you can ask the instructor or the TA to help you find them.

WEEKLY READINGS:

Week 2: Social Scientific Methods – October 12

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Useful References:


**Week 3: Approaches to Conflict** – October 19

**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.


Sidney Tarrow and Charlest Tilly. 2007. “Contentious Politics and Social Movements,” in *Oxford
Week 4: Group Identity, Mobilization, and Political Violence – October 26

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


**Week 5: Regimes, Political Opportunity, and Contentious Politics – November 2**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


University Press.


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**Week 6: Symbolic Action and Nonviolence as Contentious Interaction – November 9**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


