Topics and methodologies in the study of nationalism: avenues further

Phd Course
2 Credits
Instructor: András L. Pap

Course description
The purpose of the seminar is to provide advanced graduate students who have an interest in pursuing further academic endeavors to engage with recent or in-progress work by leading scholars affiliated with the Nationalism Studies Program. The course also provides a PhD-level introduction to research methodology in social sciences by showing how scholars in the field of nationalism meet the methodological challenges the interdisciplinary nature of this discipline is posing. Visiting and resident faculty, along with invited speakers will join the seminar to talk about various aspects of the research process (e.g., policy research, working with organizations to obtain data, running experiments, developing a research program, why certain approaches are only suitable to answer certain questions, etc.). We will be discussing how the meaning and context of concepts like citizenship, ethnicity, gender, memory politics, identity, international relations, prejudice, exclusion, or multiculturalism are constructed, and what are the methodological implications, restraints and requirements for academic scrutiny. By asking experienced scholars to explore their theoretical and methodological dilemmas, along with the practical questions (such as logistics or data protection) they face during the development of their research – and these struggles will be demonstrated through specific research projects the speakers have chosen for illustration – students can gain an invaluable aid for how conceptual clarity and operational methodology can be created. The course touches on the general question of what role does methodology play in (theoretical) research, and how the relationship between theory and data can be mapped, in other words, how can theories and adequate research methodologies be matched.

The course is, thus, designed to develop skills that students will need as researchers. It helps mapping a successful research project in social sciences. It does not teach specific research techniques, but rather focuses on the structure and logic underlying social research, as well as the distinctiveness and variety of approaches to research design.

Learning outcomes of the course are twofold: besides gaining familiarity with the given research work in progress, by engaging established scholars on their research, students will also come to realize that even internationally recognized academics face difficult questions about how to organize research, what questions to ask, how to approach them, and how to gather and deal with evidence. Students are also encouraged to provide the guest lecturers with useful feedback on the projects discussed.

The course will also examine scholarly approaches to the study of nationalism, drawing on a wide range of theoretical and empirical literature and an exploration of more recent methodological considerations regarding ethnicity and group identity. In particular, the course will draw on literature from sociology, gender studies, international relations, political science, history, and law, offering a critical and interdisciplinary approach to the study of nationalism. This course is required for students pursuing a Minor in Nationalism Studies in the Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations.

Requirements
Students registered for this course must give presentations on assigned readings, which should critically analyze and contextualize the readings, drawing on literature not listed in the syllabus. Students are encouraged to assess the implications of the presented theories through relevant case studies.
Students are to write and present at the last class an extended review essay (4,000 words) on a recent book related to the course. Possible titles will be suggested, but students are also welcome to recommend monographs for review. These review essays should aim for a publishable quality; if this requirement is met, the instructor will provide assistance for seeking out potential journals.

**Objectives**
By the end of the course, students will be expected to show PhD-level proficiency in designing methodology, as well as deriving, developing, and testing hypotheses from theories. Student achievement of these objectives will be measured through a submission of a weekly one page assessment, along with active and thoughtful participation in class discussions. The seminar is also designed to give students opportunities to engage professors in conversations about their research process.

**Learning Outcomes**
By the end of the course, students will have a fuller understanding of the extensive and highly multidisciplinary scholarly literature on nationalism. They will also be able to critically discuss competing theories in the field. They will have extensive knowledge of theoretical and empirical studies focusing on nationalism. Finally, participants of the class will be able to identify the most effective methodology and theoretical approaches tailored to their doctoral projects.

**Readings**
The interdisciplinary course is designed to engage and challenge students in critical debates. Guest speakers will provide a diverse set of readings that contextualize their research.

**Course evaluation:**
- Class participation: 30%
- Class presentations, reading responses: 30%
- Review essay: 40%

**Grading information**
Students will participate in weekly seminar discussions. Students are expected to attend all seminars, read all the required readings, make constructive, cogent and prepared contributions to class discussions, and to come to class having read and critically evaluated the materials assigned for each meeting.
In addition to this, students are required to:
(i) Submit a written analysis of each assigned reading by 13:00 the day prior to the class. These reading responses should focus on a conceptual and methods analysis/critique of the readings, and should be no longer than one page. The goal is to build analytical research skills by analyze specifically inter alia: (i) what is the project about; (ii) what is the theoretical background/what are the basic theory assumptions; (iii) how is the analysis constructed and defined; (iv) if applicable, are the variables properly operationalized/measured and designed; (v) what is the theoretical contribution of the project; (vi) are there theoretical limitations, is there something unanswered? (vii) are there theoretical limitations, is there something unanswered? (viii) are there implications for stimulating future research? An inspiring question for the class discussion needs to be added to the response paper. (Questions need to go beyond the obvious.)
(ii) give presentations on certain assigned readings
(iii) For a final contribution, students need to prepare a 2000 word “peer review” for one of the class-assignments. This exercise provides useful insights for future academics, who will be submitting their own work for peer-review. For useful clues, see: http://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/reviewer-guidelines#conducting-a-review
Please note that late papers submitted after the deadline will be marked down by half of a letter grade per day.
(iv) present their review projects on the last class

Course layout:
Class 1. September 17 Introduction

Class 2. September 24: Operationalizing race and ethnicity
Andras L. Pap (2017): Ethno-racial identity (politics) by law: “Fraud” and “choice”, Nationalities Papers
Translating identity politics to public law: conceptualizing identity, choice and fraud, book concept note

Class 3. October 1. Survey-based understanding of nationalism Guest speaker: Bence Ságvári
Tim Reeskens -Matthew Wright: Nationalism and the Cohesive Society: A Multilevel Analysis of the Interplay Among Diversity, National Identity, and Social Capital Across European Societies, Comparative Political Studies 46(2) 153–181
Messing, Vera-Ságvár, Bence: Looking behind the culture of fear - Cross-national analysis of attitudes towards migration, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, European Social Survey

Class 4. October 8. The Dynamics of Prejudice in Small Groups. Guest speaker: Luca Váradi

Class 5. October 15. Transnational citizenship constellations in Europe. Guest speaker: Szabolcs Pogonyi

Class 6. October 29. Gender and nationalism, Guest speaker: Lídia Balogh


**Class 9. November 19. Nationalism and international relations**

Hurst Hannum: International law, Encyclopedia of Nationalism

**Class 10. November 26. Transnational memory and nationalism**, Guest speaker: Gergely Romsics


**Class 11. December 3. Book Presentations**