COURSE SYLLABUS

TOPICS AND METHODOLOGIES IN
NATIONALISM STUDIES: AVENUES FURTHER

Instructor: Andras L. Pap
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Nationalism Studies Program
Central European University
Fall 2014
Course level: MA, PhD
4 Credits (# ECTS Credits)
Course e-learning site: http://ceulearning.ceu.hu/course/view.php?id=3304
Office hours: days, location

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, civic culture, borders, identity, right-wing radicalism, 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.

Learning Outcomes
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 designed to give students opportunities to engage professors in conversations about their research process.

**Course Requirements**

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) For each class, a team of two students are assigned as discussants and they need to prepare a commentary for the guest speaker.

(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

http://www.humanitiesdirectory.com/index.php/humanitiesdirectory/pages/view/authors_guidelines_reviewers


Please note that late papers submitted after the deadline will be marked down by half of a letter grade per day.

The requirements and grading breakdown of the seminar are as follows:

- Response papers = 25%
- Discussant and commentator duties = 20%
- Quality of class participation = 25%
- Peer-review = 30%

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Class 1. September 24. 15,30-17,10.** Introduction

**Class 2. September 29. 17,20-19,10.** Guest lecturer: Zsuzsa Vidra: Social welfare and employment policy changes and the criminalization of the poor (Roma) in some Central and Eastern European countries

**Class 3. October 6. 17,20-19,10.** Guest lecturer: Andras Kovacs; How to measure latent prejudices?

**Class 4. October 15. 15,30-17,10.** Guest lecturer: Tibor Várady: Law, language and the Tower of Babel

**Class 5. October 22. 15,30-17,10.** Guest lecturer Petra Bárd: Hate Crime dilemmas

**Class 6. October 29. 15,30-17,10.** Guest lecturer: Andrea Pető: Methodological Challenges of Gendering Perpetrator Research

**Class 7. November 5. 15,30-17,10.** Guest lecturer: Julia Szalai: TBA

**Class 8. November 10. 17,20-19.00.** Guest lecturer Vera Messing: Roma in the media

**Class 9. November 19. 15,30-17,10.** Guest lecturer Tamás Korhecz: Official Language Regulation and Ethnicity

**Class 10. November 26. 15,30-17,10.** Guest lecturer Anton Pelinka: Federalism
Syllabus Template

Class 11. December 3. 15.30-17.10. Guest lecturer: Szabolcs Pogonyi: Transnational political institutions and participation in Hungary

Class 12. December 10. 15.30-17.10: Michael Stewart: Methodological issues around reconstructing a forgotten genocide

Winter SEMESTER
Class 16. Guest lecturer: Dan Rabinowitz
Class 17. Guest lecturer: Zsuzsa Vidra
Class 18. Guest lecturer: Vera Messing
Class 19. Guest lecturer: Andrea Péter
Class 20. Guest lecturer: Balázs Majtényi
Class 21. Guest lecturer: Tibor Várady
Class 22. Guest lecturer: Judit Toth
Class 23. Guest lecturer: Andras Pap
Class 24. Class roundtable