

Masters in International Affairs (MIA)

Academic year 2008 - 2009

Epistemology & Methods

E150 – Spring – Epistemology & Methods – 6 ECTS
Tuesdays 16:15-18:00 (AJF)

Course Description

The aim of this course is to introduce MIA students to the diversity of qualitative perspectives and quantitative methods relevant to the study of contemporary international issues. In a first part, Prof. Balachandran will present perspectives and methods derived from human disciplines such as critical historical and cultural analyses. In a second part, Prof. Elsig will present positivist methods in the social sciences. One of the aims of this course is to help students develop theoretical and practical tools for their mémoires. This will also be the aim of seminars that will take place during the semester with the teaching assistants.

> PROFESSORS

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Wednesdays 14h30-16h00
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> ASSISTANTS

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Syllabus

Course Website

<http://graduateinstitute.ch/mia/courses/interdisciplinary/epistemology-methods.html>

Requirements

In the first part with Prof. Balachandran, students will critically review, in approximately 2500 words (+/(-) 10%), a “text” dealing with an issue of contemporary significance to tease out its categories of analysis and any hidden or latent historical, cultural and other assumptions or values. A ‘text’ need not necessarily be ‘literary’. It may be aural (e.g. a piece of music), visual (including paintings, photography, film, theatre visuals, etc.), represent a sample from material culture, etc. The deadline is April 21 in class (hard copies) to the assistants.

In the second part with Prof. Elsig, students will write a paper of approximately 2500 words (+/(-)10%) that presents the design for a research project that they are likely to pursue in future personal research (such as the mémoire), including e.g., a research question (justified on the basis of a brief literature review), hypotheses and possible arguments, and data selection/collection issues. The deadline is 6:00 PM June 9 by email to the assistants.

In addition, students will participate in seminars with the teaching assistants to help them with their mémoire. Details on the groups and schedule will follow shortly.

Evaluation

The evaluation for the course is as follows:

- 45% of the grade for the individual paper due to Professor Balachandran (April 21)
- 45% of the grade for the individual paper due to Professor Elsig (June 9)
- 10% of the grade for participation in the course and the seminars

NOTE: The deadlines are firm. Late submissions will suffer a penalty: -.25 for 1-4 hours late; -0.5 for 4-8 hours; -0.75 for 8-12 hours, and -1 point for +12 hours. If you have valid medical reasons for the delay (supported by a medical certificate) please contact Imène or Rachelle at the earliest.

Readings

In order to be able to participate in class discussions and to prepare the required assignments, students must do a set of required readings. These readings will be posted on the website of the course on a separate password-protected page. A reading packet (polycopié) is also available for purchase at Imprimerie Minute (7, rue Voie-Creuse, Tel: 022.734.0000).

NOTE: Please make sure you consult the website regularly, as information regarding the course will be posted there.

Course Outline

I. FEBRUARY 17 INTRODUCTION (GB)

II. FEBRUARY 24 FOUNDATIONS: ACCUMULATION OF KNOWLEDGE, PARADIGMS, THEORIES (ME)

1. Barbara Geddes, *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 1, University of Michigan Press, Michigan, 2003.
2. Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Chapter 1, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1994.

III. MARCH 3 HISTORICAL TIME AND HUMAN PROGRESS (GB)

1. Uday Singh Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire: India in British Liberal Thought*, Chapter 3, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1999.
2. Susan Buck-Morss, "Hegel and Haiti", *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 26, no. 4, Summer 2000, pp. 821-865.
3. Andrew Sartori, "The British Empire and its Liberal Mission", *Journal of Modern History*, vol. 78, no. 3, September 2006, pp. 623-642.
4. *Optional reading*: Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World*, Chapter 1, Columbia University Press, New York, 2004.

IV. MARCH 10 THE WEST, THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM, AND THE WORLD (GB)

1. Mark Mazower, "An international civilization? Empire, internationalism and the crisis of the mid-twentieth century", *International Affairs*, vol. 82, no. 3, 2006, pp. 553-566.
2. Makau Mutua, *Human Rights: A Political and Cultural Critique*, Chapter 1, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2002.

V. MARCH 17 NATIONS, SOVEREIGNTY, BORDERS (GB)

1. Adam McKeown, *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders*, Chapter 6, Columbia University Press, New York, 2008.
2. Radhika Mongia, "Historicizing State Sovereignty: Inequality and the Form of Equivalence", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 49, no. 2, April 2007, pp. 384-411.
3. *Optional reading*: Adam McKeown, *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders*, Chapter 5, Columbia University Press, New York, 2008.

VI. MARCH 24 RACE, SCIENCE, AND POLITICS (GB)

1. Michelle Brattain, "Race, Racism, and Antiracism: UNESCO and the Politics of Presenting Science to the Post-war Public", *American Historical Review*, vol. 112, issue 5, December 2007, pp. 1386-1413.
2. H. Glenn Penny, "The Politics of Anthropology in the Age of Empire: German Colonists, Brazilian Indians, and the Case of Alberto Vojtěch Frič", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 45, no. 2, April 2003, pp. 240-280.

VII. MARCH 31 COLONIALISM, CULTURES, AND CONFLICT (GB)

1. Bernard Lewis, "The Roots of Muslim Rage", *Atlantic Monthly*, September 1990.
2. Bernard Lewis, "What Went Wrong?", *Atlantic Monthly*, 2002.
3. Edward Said, *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*, Introduction and Chapter 1.1 ("Knowing the Oriental"), Penguin Editions, 1996.
4. Susan Buck-Morss, "Critical Theory and Islamism", in Susan Buck-Morss, *Thinking Past Terror: Islamism and Critical Theory on the Left*, Chapter 2, Verso, London, 2003.
5. David B. Edwards, "Mad Mullahs and Englishmen: Discourse in the Colonial Encounter", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 31, no.4, 1989, pp. 649-670.

VIII. APRIL 7 SUBALTERNITIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM (GB)

1. Mahmood Mamdani, "Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 43, no. 4, 2001, pp. 651-664.
2. Makau Mutua, *Human Rights: A Political and Cultural Critique*, Chapter 3, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2002.
3. Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World*, Chapter 2 & 3, Columbia University Press, New York, 2004.

IX. APRIL 21 **RESEARCH QUESTIONS, PUZZLES AND THE STUDY OF CAUSATION (ME)**

1. Barbara Geddes, *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 2 (extract pp. 27-50), University of Michigan Press, Michigan, 2003.
2. Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, Chapter 7, MIT Press, Cambridge, 2004.

X. APRIL 28 **MODEL BUILDING: CONCEPTS, ARGUMENTS, AND HYPOTHESES (ME)**

1. Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Chapter 3, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1994.
2. Barbara Geddes, *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 2 (extract pp. 50-88), The University of Michigan Press, Michigan, 2003.
3. Stephen van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, Chapter 1, Cornell University Press, New York, 1997.

XI. MAY 5 **DATA SELECTION, OPERATIONALIZATION AND MEASUREMENT (ME)**

1. Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Chapter 4, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1994.
2. Barbara Geddes, *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, Chapter 3, University of Michigan Press, Michigan, 2003.
3. Kirk Bowman, Fabrice Lehoucq and James Mahoney, "Measuring Political Democracy. Case Expertise, Data Adequacy, and Central America", *Comparative Political Studies*, vol. 38, no. 8, 2005, pp. 939-970.

XII. MAY 12 **METHODS I: SMALL-N & LARGE N-STUDIES (ME)**

1. Andrew Bennett, "Case Study Methods: Design, Use, and Comparative Advantages", Chapter 2 in Detlef F. Sprinz and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias, *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*, University of Michigan Press, Michigan, 2004.
2. John Odell, "Case Study Methods in International Political Economy", *International Studies Perspectives*, vol. 2, 2001, pp. 161-176.
3. Bear Braumoeller and Anne Sartori, "The Promise and Perils of Statistics in International Relations", Chapter 6 in Detlef F. Sprinz and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias, *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*, University of Michigan Press, Michigan, 2004.

XIII. MAY 19 **METHODS II: PROCESS-TRACING & CONTENT ANALYSIS (ME)**

1. Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, Chapter 10, MIT Press, Cambridge, 2004.
2. Jeffrey Checkel, "It's the Process Stupid! Process Tracing in the Study of European and International Politics", *Arena Working Paper*, no. 26, October 2005.

3. Michael Laver and John Garry, "Estimating Policy Positions from Political Texts", *American Journal of Political Science*, vol. 44, no. 3, July 2000, pp. 619-634.

XIV. MAY 26

**METHODS III: SURVEY RESEARCH & INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES (ME)
CONCLUSIONS (GB & ME)**

1. Harry E. Brady, "Contributions of Survey Research to Political Science", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, vol. 33, no.1, March 2000, pp. 47-57.
2. Jarol Manheim and Richard Rich, *Empirical Political Analysis*, Chapter 7, Longman Publishers, New York, 1995.
3. Beth L. Leech, et al., "Symposium: Interview Methods in Political Science", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, vol. 35, no. 4, December 2002, pp. 665-688.