

BROAD COURSE OUTLINE

MPhil/PhD Programme in
POLITICAL SCIENCE
Department of Political Science
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Delhi
Delhi - 110007

IDENTITY POLITICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Course Details

Optional, 4 Credits

Classroom Hours: TBC

Contact Hours: TBC

Instructor Details

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Course Description:

If politics is defined as the power of humans to decide who gets what, when and how, then identity politics may be interpreted as a critical sub-text of that process of decision-making, determined on the basis of who has the capability to assign identities to humans, delineate the lines between we/others and with this, ultimately control the very meaning of identity in society. The subject of identity politics is a discursive sphere spanning the entire gamut of humanities and social sciences, requiring an inter-disciplinary approach for its understanding. In International Relations which is relatively a new discipline, the field of identity politics has rapidly acquired centrality, with multiple strands and diverse notions pertaining to the processes of identity formation, differentiation, marginalization, problems of recognition, assertions of group identities and the State versus group identity having emerged as crucial aspects of IR studies. 'Identity Politics in International Relations', which is an optional course, tries to explore the analytical and normative value of studying International Relations from the perspective of identity. This will be done by discussing diverse streams ranging from liberal/Marxist, realist/communitarian and postcolonial/postmodern discourses of identity formation.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Week I:

In this week, the meaning and definitions of the concept of identity would be discussed. An introductory overview of as to how the notion of identity originated in social sciences and the ways in which it has been used as an interdisciplinary concept for the purposes of analysis would be given here. In this week, we would also seek to understand as to what identity politics is all about. The main aim here is to know as to how identity politics, the politics of identity and the politics of difference are inter-twined into a triangulation, bringing the notion of identity into a pivotal position in contemporary politics.

Required Readings:

Brubaker, Rogers and Frederick Cooper (2000), 'Beyond Identity', *Theory and Society*. No. 29: 1-47.

Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson (1992), 'Beyond Culture: Space Identity and the Politics of Difference', *Cultural Anthropology*. 7: 6-23.

Week II:

This week examines the Dominant approaches interrogating the processes of identity construction. They include, (A) the Primordialists, (B) Perennialists and (C) Modernists. Apart from this, major discourses explaining Identity Politics: (A) Liberal/Marxist, (B) Critical/Constructivist, (C) Postmodern/Postcolonial *would also be discussed*.

Required Readings:

Bernstein, Mary (2005), 'Identity Politics', *Annual Review of Sociology*. No. 31: 47-74.

Zeffhuss, Mark (2001), 'Constructivism and Identity: A Dangerous Liaison', *European Journal of International Relations*. 7(3): 315-348.

Week III:

Here, the understanding of various sources of identity formation would be initiated. In this line this week focuses on nation, religion, language and ethnicity as sources of identity formation.

Required Readings:

Abeyssekara, Ananda(2004), 'Identity for and Against Itself: Religion, Criticism and Pluralization', *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 72(4): 973-1001.

Cornell, Stephen E., and Douglass Hartmann (1997), *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World*. California: Pine Forge Press.

Craith, Mairead Nic (2007), (ed.) *Language Power and Identity Politics*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nation and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Geertz, Clyfford. 1973. 'Religion as a Cultural System', in Clyfford Geertz[ed], *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, pp: 84-112.

Hale, Henry (2004), 'Explaining Ethnicity', *Comparative Political Studies*. 37(4): 458-485.

Kannvall, Catarina(2004), 'Globalisation and Religious Nationalism: Self, Identity, and the Search for Ontological Security', *Political Psychology*. 25(5): 741-761.

Shapiro, Michael J. (1997), 'Narrating the Nation: Unwelcoming the Stranger', *Alternatives*. 22(2): 1-34.

Smith, Anthony D. 1989. 'Origins of Nations', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 12[3], pp: 341-356 and 363-367.

Week IV:

Continuing with the sources of identity formation, this week discusses gender, sexuality and race as sources of identity formation.

Required Readings:

Briant, Joanne and Tony Schofield. 2007. 'Feminine Sexual Subjectivities: Bodies, Agency and Life History'. *Sexualities*. 10[3], pp: 321-340.

Butler, Judith (1990), *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge.

Dean, Carolyn J.(1994), 'Productive Hypothesis: Foucault, Gender and the History of Sexuality', *History and Theory*. 33(3): 271-296.

Kandiyoti, Deniz (1991), 'Identity and its Discontents: Women and the Nation', *Millennium* 20 (3): 429-443.

Nicholson, Linda (2008), *Identity Before Identity Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Read the first three chapters.

Smedley, Audrey (1998), 'Race and the Construction of Human Identity', *American Anthropologist*. 100(3): 690-702.

Week V:

This week seeks to understand the emergence of the problematique of identity in the disciplinary boundaries of International Relations. By dealing with the key dimensions relating to identity such as collective identity, self and other, difference and similarity, they will be contextualized in the conceptual domain of International Relations.

Required Readings:

Agnew, James (1999), 'Mapping Political Power Beyond State Boundaries: Territory, Identity and Movement in World Politics', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 28(3): 499-522.

Horowitz, Michael (2002), 'Research Report on the Use of Identity Concepts in International Relations', *Harvard Identity Project*. Harvard University Press.

Lapid, Yosef and Friedrich Kratochwil(1996), *The Return of Culture and Identity in IR Theory*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Viotti, Paul R. and Mark V. Kaupi (2007), *International Relations and World Politics: Security, Economy, Identity*. London: Pearson.

Week VI:

Continuing from what we had begun in Week V, the origins, reproduction, and effects of identity on the sphere of international relations would be explored from different perspectives. The issue of identity which is one of the crucial components of the discourses on culture has been a major subject of study for sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists. Anyhow, in International Relations Studies it is yet to gather much ground. The aim here is to highlight this and related phenomenon, as to understand the extent of progress that International Relations has made towards bridging this lacuna. In this line, issues like colonialism, imperialism, hegemony and soft power would be discussed.

Required Readings:

Cox, Michael. 2004. 'Empire, Imperialism, and the Bush Doctrine', *Review of International Studies*. No, 30, pp: 585-608.

Cox, Robert. 1987. *Production, Power and World Order*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Egleton, Terry, Fredric Jameson and Edward Said. 1990. *Nationalism, Colonialism and Literature*. Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press.

Gill, Stephen (2004), *Gramsci, Historical Materialism and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Harshe, Rajen(1997), *Twentieth Century Imperialism: Shifting Contours and Changing Conceptions*. New Delhi: Sage.

Horavath, Ronald J.(1973), 'A Definition of Colonialism', *Current Anthropology*. 13(1): 45-57.

Keohane, Robert (1984), *After Hegemony*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Nye, Joseph S.(1990), 'The Changing Nature of World Power', *Political Science Quarterly*. 105(2): 177-192.

Xintian, Yun (2002), 'The Role of Soft Power in International Relations'. *Chinese Philosophical Studies*, Asia Series, 3(20) (www.culturalpolicy.org)

Week VII:

Moving further, this week focuses upon the processes of the identity formation of postcolonial States. The main focus here would be to understand the Emergence of postcolonial State in South Asia and the evolution of its identity as a region.

Required Readings:

Basche, Linda (1994), *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments and Deterritorialized Nation-States*. London: Routledge.

Bhabha, Homi(1990), 'Dissemination: Time, Narrative and the Margins of the Modern Nation', in Homi Bhabha (ed.), *Nation and Narration*, (London Routledge): p 299-312.

Nandy, Ashis (1983): *The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self under Colonialism* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).

-1997, *South Asian Politics: Modernity and the Landscape of Clandestine and Incommunicable Selves*, *Macalester International*. 4(21): 223-247.

Paolini, Albert J., Anthony Elliott and Anthony Moran (1999), *Navigating Modernity: Postcolonialism, Identity and International Relations: Critical Perspectives on World Politics*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Said, Edward (1978), *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon.

Week IX:

In this week, we attempt at understanding the broad framework of the turf upon which the subtle nuances of identity politics are played out in International Relations. We will try here to conceptualize the major grounds upon which contemporary International Relations have witnessed identity as key determining force in shaping the politics among Nation-States. These include issues such as the role of the Nation-State in a changing world, Nationalism, secularism, and multiculturalism.

Required Readings:

Ashley, Richard (1988), 'Untying the Sovereign State'. *Millennium*, 17 (2): 227-262.

Bennett, David (1998), (ed.) *Multicultural States: Rethinking Difference and Identity*. Cambridge: Routledge.

Brass, Paul R. (1991), *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Theory and Comparison*. New Delhi: Sage.

Bruce, Steve. 2002. *God is Dead: Secularism in the West*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Cady, Linell E. and Elizabeth Shakman (2010), (eds.) *Comparative Secularisms in a Globalising World*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kumar, Sanjeev H.M. (2011), 'Contested Beliefs and Fractured Faiths: The Dyslexia of Nationalisms and the deepening Subcontinental Divide'. *Turkish Journal of Politics* 2 (2): 87-101.

Talbot, Ian (2000): *Inventing the Nation: India and Pakistan* (New York: Oxford University Press).

Teschke, B. (2002), 'Theorising the Westphalian System of States: International Relations from Absolutism to Capitalism', *European Journal of International Relations*. 8(1): 5-48.

Vanaik, Achin and Paul R Brass (2002): "Introduction", in Paul R. Brass and Achin Vanaik (eds.) *Competing Nationalisms in South Asia* (Hyderabad: Orient Longman) 01-17.

Week X:

This week examines the role of culture, identity and globalization on international Relations. Cultural factors have invariably influenced the trajectories of international relations since a long time. But off late, their influence has increased to manifold proportions. The advent of globalization has imparted a critical dimension to this entire process. In view of this, the examination of as to how the notion of identity has figured in the sphere of international relations becomes very crucial.

Required Readings:

Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri (2000), *Empire*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Harshe, Rajen (2006), 'Culture Identity and International Relations', *Economic and Political Weekly*. September 16.

Lieber Robert J. and Ruth E. Weisberg (2002), 'Globalisation Culture and Identities in Crisis', *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*. 16(2): 273-296.

Mazzar, Michael. 1996. Culture in International Relations, *Washington Quarterly*, Spring, <http://www.globalpolicy.org>.

Strandsbjerg, Jeppe (2010), *Territory, Globalisation and International Relations: Cartographic Realities of Space*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Wendt, Allen (1994), 'Collective Identity Formation and the International State', *American Political Science Review*. 88(2): 384-396.

Week XI:

Picking up from the last week, this week focuses as to how the post September 11 scenario, provides a significant facet to the entire process as to how cultural issues have influenced international relations. This must be understood in the context of the culture talk surrounding the issue of the global identity of Muslims and the contested notions relating to it.

Required Readings:

Abrahamian, Ervand. 2003. 'The US Media, September 11 and Huntington', *Third World Quarterly*. 24(3), pp: 529-544.

Ayoob, Mohammad. 2008. *The Many Faces of Political Islam*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Carlei, Robert. 2011. 'Tariq Ramadan and the Quest for Moderate Islam', *Society*. 48(1), pp: 58-69.

Doran, Michael. 2002. 'Somebody Else's Civil War', *Foreign Affairs*. 81(1), pp: 22-42.

Fuller, Graham E. 2002. 'The Future of Political Islam', *Foreign Affairs*. 81(2), pp: 48-60.

Gerges, Fawaz. 1997. 'Islam and Muslims in the Mind of America: Influence on U.S. Policy', *Journal of Palestine Studies*. 26(2), Winter, pp: 68-80

Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. 'Clash of Civilizations?', *Foreign Affairs*. 72(3), pp: 22-49.

Leiken, Robert S. 2005. 'Europe's Angry Muslims', *Foreign Affairs*. 84(4) July-August, pp: 120-135.

Lewis, Bernard(1990), 'The Roots of Muslim Rage: Why So Many Muslims Resent the West

and Why Their Bitterness will not Easily be Mollified', *The Atlantic Monthly*.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1990/09/the-roots-of-muslim-rage/304643/>

Mamdani, Mahmood. 2002. 'Good Muslim and Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective of Culture and Terrorism', *American Anthropologist*. 104(3), September, pp: 766-775.

Week XII:

This week provides a comprehensive overview of identity politics and political differences in contemporary political life of South Asia. The ways in which identity figures into politics and politics figures into identity in South Asia would be discussed by engaging with issues such as identity of Muslims in the post September 11 epoch, diaspora identity, the problem of refugee identity and the identity of the Stateless.

Required Readings:

Bates, Crispin (2001), *Communities Empire and Migration: South Asians in Diaspora*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kumar, Sanjeev H.M. (2009), 'Post-September 11 crisis in International Relations and the State of Multicultural Societies', *Economic and Political Weekly*. 44(3): 47-55.

2013. Constructing Nation's Enemy: Hindutva, Popular Culture and the Muslim Other in Bollywood Cinema, *Third World Quarterly*, 35 (4)

Lau, Lisa and Ana Cristina Mendes (2011), (eds.) *Re-orientalism and South Asian Identity Politics: The Oriental Other*. New Delhi: Routledge.

Pemberton, Kelly and Michael Nijhawan (2009), *Shared Idioms, Sacred Symbols, and the Articulations of Identity in South Asia*. London: Routledge.

Rai, Rajesh and Peeter Reeves (2008), *The South Asian Diaspora: Transnational Networks and Changing Identities*. New Delhi: Routledge.

Singh, Deepak K. (2010), *The Stateless in South Asia: The Chakmas between Bangladesh and India*. New Delhi: Sage India.

Taylor, David and Malcolm Yapp (1979), (eds.) *Political Identity in South Asia*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Recommended Readings:

Ahmed, Abdullahi (2007), *Islam and the Secular State: Negotiating the Future of Shariah*. Cambridge Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Ali, Tariq (2002), *The Clash of Fundamentalisms*. New Delhi: Rupa and Co.

Butler, Judith and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (2007), *Who Sings the Nation: Language Politics Belonging*. London: Seagull Books.

Cooper, Robert (2004), *The Breaking of Nations: Order and Chaos in the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Grove Publishers.

Doty, Roxanne Lynn (1996), 'Immigration and national identity', *Review of International Studies*. 22(1): 235-255.

Fanon, Frantz (1967), *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Weidenfield.

_____ (1968), *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Weidenfield.

Gurr, Ted Robert (1993), *Minorities at Risk: The Global View of Ethno-political Conflict*. Arlington: Institute of Peace Press.

Hutchinson, John (2004), *Nations as Zones of Conflict*. London: Sage Publications.

Juergensmeyer, Mark (1994): *Religious Nationalism Confronts the Secular State* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).

Lynch, Michael (2001), *Lives on Hold: The Human Cost of Statelessness*. Washington D.C.: Refugee International.

Parekh, Bhikhu (2000), *Rethinking Multiculturalism: Cultural Diversity and Political Theory*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Pinker, Steven Arthur (2011), *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence has Declined*. New York: Viking.

Ross, Marc Howard (2007), *Cultural Contestations in Ethnic Conflict*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sen, Amartya (2006), *Identity and Violence*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Tilly, Charles (2003), *The Politics of Collective Violence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.