Culture in Global Politics

Credit Hour system (2nd, 3rd and 4th level)

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Office #62

Office hours: Monday 1.30-2.30

Wednesday 1.30-2.30

Course description

The aim of the course is to shed light on the controversies raised by the rising interconnectedness between culture and global politics. By the end of the course students should become familiar with the main conceptual and analytical tools needed for understanding the various roles that culture can play and the levels of impact that culture can have on global politics, as well as the tools needed for appreciating the importance of cultural aspects to the analysis of our contemporary global relations. Gradually students should come to understand the obstacles facing the study of culture from within the field of international relations and the need to overcome them.

The course is divided into four main parts where each part seeks to answer a different group of questions. Below is a general list of **suggested readings**, the list of suggested readings is expandable

throughout the semester and **prior to each class a set of essential readings will be specified.**

Part I: Introduction (4 weeks)

- What is the relationship between culture, religion and civilization?
- Making sense of the interconnectedness between culture and IR: What is cultural about IR?
- What are the manifestations of the "return of cultural discourses" to IR?
- What is the relationship between culture and globalization?
- How can we explain the return of cultural discourses to IR?

Suggested readings:

- Jaco Beyers, "Religion and culture: Revisiting a close relative", Theological Studies, AOSIS, 2017
- John A. Rees, Religion and Culture, Jan 2017, e-IR,
  link: http://www.e-ir.info/2017/01/08/religion-and-culture/
- Ruan Wei, "Civilization and Culture", Globality Studies Journal, Issue 24, 2011
- Hugh Mackay, The globalization of Culture, in: David Held (ed.), "A globalizing World? Culture, Economics and Politics", (London and New York: The Open University, 2000), pp. 48-84
- James Ferguson, The Controversial Role of Culture in International Relations, Advanced International Relations and Advanced Global Politics, The Department of International Relations, Bond University, Australia, 2000/2001,
  link: http://www.international-relations.com/wbadvir/wbadvir4.htm
- Nina Glick Schiller, "Cultural Politics and the Politics of Culture", Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power, 4-1, August 1997
- James Johnson, "Why Respect Culture?", American Journal of Political Science, Vol. 44, No. 3, July 2000
- أماني محمود غانم، البعد الثقافي في العلاقات الدولية، دراسة في خطاب صدام الحضارات، (القاهرة، كلية الاقتصاد والعلوم السياسية-برنامج الدراسات الحضارية وحوار الثقافات، الطبعة الأولى، 2007)، ص ص 95-149

- عبد الخبير عطا وأماني صالح، العلاقات الدولية: البعد الديني والحضاري، في: منى أبو الفضل ونادية مصطفى (تحرير السلسلة)، سلسلة التأصيل النظري للدراسات الحضارية، (القاهرة: برنامج الدراسات الحضارية وحوار الثقافات، دمشق: دار الفكر، 2008)، الجزء الخامس

- نادية مصطفى (تحرير)، حسن نافعة (تقديم)، علم السياسة: مراجعات نظرية ومنهاجية، سلسلة محاضرات الموسم الثقافي لقسم العلوم السياسية (4-5)، (القاهرة: كلية الاقتصاد والعلوم السياسية، 2004)

- نادية مصطفى (إشراف علمي وتقديم)، أميرة أبو سمرة (مراجعة وتحرير)، مداخل التحليل الثقافي لدراسة الظواهر السياسية والاجتماعية: المنطلقات والمجالات والمفاهيم في العلوم الاجتماعية والسياسية، أعمال سمينار قسم العلوم السياسية 2008-2010، (القاهرة: قسم العلوم السياسية، جامعة القاهرة، 2011)

Part II: Culture and the processes of International Relations: The Controversial Role of Culture in IR (4 weeks)

- Are cultures a threat to international order and stability? How do they impact peace or conflict?
- What roles do civilizations and cultures play? Are they there only to clash?

Suggested Readings:
- Matthias Basedau and Alexander De Juan, "The ambivalence of the Sacred in Africa: The Impact of Religion on Peace and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa", German Institute of Global and Area Studies working papers 70, March 2008
- Raymond Cohen, Conflict Resolution across Cultures: Bridging the Gap, in: Dominique Jacquin Berdal, Andrew Oros and Marco Verweij (eds.), Culture in World Politics, (Macmillan Press and Millennium, 1998), pp 112-133
- Roxanne Lynn Doty, The Bounds of 'Race' in International Relations, in: Dominique Jacquin Berdal, Andrew Oros and Marco Verweij (eds.), Culture in World Politics, (Macmillan Press and Millennium, 1998), pp 134-155
- Marc H. Ross, The Cultural Dynamics of Ethnic Conflict, in: Dominique Jacquin Berdal, Andrew Oros and Marco Verweij (eds.), Culture in World Politics, (Macmillan Press and Millennium, 1998), pp 156- 186

- Robert A. Rubinstein, Cultural Aspects of Peacekeeping: Notes on the Substance of Symbols, in: Dominique Jacquin Berdal, Andrew Oros and Marco Verweij (eds.), Culture in World Politics, (Macmillan Press and Millennium, 1998), pp 187-20
- Sybille Reinke De Buitrago, "Introduction", in: Sybille Reinke De Buitrago, Portraying the Other in International Relations: Cases of Othering, their Dynamics and their potential for Transformation, (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012)
- "Five Key Questions answered on the Link between Peace and Religion, A Global Statistical Analysis on the Empirical Link between Peace and Religion", Institute for Economics and Peace, 2014, www.economicsandpeace.org
- Richard Jackson, "Constructing Enemies: Islamic Terrorism in Political and Academic Discourse", Government and Opposition, Vol. 42, No. 3, June 2007, pp 394-426
- Nadia M. Mustafa, "The missing Logic in the discourse of peace and Violence in Islam, (in): Abdul Aziz Said, Mohammed Abu- Nemer, Meena Sharify- Funk (eds.), Contemporary Islam: Dynamic not Static,: (London and New York: Routledge, 2006)
- Ejaz Akram, "Religion as the Source of Reconciliation among Civilizations", The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences, 19 (2)

- نادية محمود مصطفى، "إشكالية العلاقة بين الحضارات: قراءة في خطابات عربية وإسلامية"، السياسة الدولية، أبريل 2007
- نادية محمود مصطفى، سيف الدين عبد الفتاح (تنسيق علمي وإشراف)، وسام الضويني (مراجعة)، أزمات حوار الثقافات والأديان، جامعة القاهرة: مركز الدراسات الحضارية وحوار الثقافات، 2009.
- إعجاز أكرم، "الخصوصية الثقافية والعالمية الحضارية: الحداثة وجذور الصراع العالمي"، في: نادية محمود مصطفى، محمد بشير صفار (محرران): الخصوصية الثقافية: نحو تفعيل التغيير السياسى والاجتماعى، جامعة القاهرة: برنامج حوار الحضارات بكلية الاقتصاد والعلوم السياسية، 2008.

Suggested videos:
- William Cavanaugh, Religious Violence: Myth or Global Reality?
  Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWnInrHihAM

- Scott Appleby, "The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion as a Source of Violent and Nonviolent Militance",
  Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlPOLq7eedU

Part III: Culture and our contemporary international System: (2-3 weeks)

- "Culture comes to be associated, often aggressively with the nation or the state, this differentiates "us" form "them" almost always with some degree of xenophobia." (Edward Said)
  So: Does thinking about cultures from within the framework of the nation-state cause thinking about cultures as a source of conflict?
  What is problematic about the relationship between culture and nationalism?
- The "us" vs. "them" controversy: Are cultures closed or open entities?
- Culture and imperialism: Is there a global culture?
- What is the relationship between culture and the emergence of the international system?
- How did the colonial experience affect the formation of the nation-state.

Suggested readings:

- Uma Narayan, Essence of Culture and a Sense of History: A Feminist Critique of Cultural Essentialism, Hypathia, 1998, pp. 86-106
- Partha Chatterjee, Colonialism, Nationalism and Colonialized Women: The Contest in India, American Ethnologist, Vol. 16, no. 4, 1989, pp. 622-633
- David Blaney and Naeem Inayatullah, "Neo-Modernization? IR and the Inner Life of Modernization Theory", European Journal of International Relations, 8 (1), 2002
- Patrick Jenlink, Global Cultural Politics, in: Fenwick English (ed.), Encyclopedia of Educational Leadership and Administration, (Sage Publications, 2006)

- Barry Buzan and George Lawson, The global transformation, History, Modernity and International Relations, LSE research online, originally published in: Barry Buzan and George Lawson, The global transformation: history, modernity and the making of international relations, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015)
- Edward Said, Culture and Imperialism, (New York: Vintage Books, 1994)
- Michael C. Desch and Daniel Philpott et al., Religion and International Relations: A Primer for Research, The Report of the Working Group on International Relations and Religion of the Mellon Initiative on Religion Across the Disciplines, University of Notre Dame
- P. W. Preston, Political/Cultural Identity: Citizens and Nations in a Global Era, (London and New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997), pp 1-36
- Seyla Benhabib, The Claims of Culture: Equality and Diversity in the Global Era, (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2002), pp 1-48
- Seyla Benhabib, The Claims of Culture: Equality and Diversity in the Global Era, (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2002), pp 178-186
- Fabio Petito, An Alternative Model for World Order, in Michalis S. Michael and Fabio Petito, Civilizational Dialogue and World Order: The Other Politics of Cultures, Religions and civilizations in International Relations, Culture and Religion in International Relations Series, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)
- Tarak Barkawi and Mark Laffey, "Retrieving the Imperial: Empire and International Relations", Millenium – Journal of International Studies, 2002, Vol. 31, No. 1

- سيف الدين عبد الفتاح، الإسلام والعولمة: رؤيتان للعالم، قراءة معرفية ومنهجية، في: منى أبو الفضل ونادية مصطفى (تحرير السلسلة)، سلسلة التأصيل النظري للدراسات الحضارية، (القاهرة: برنامج الدراسات الحضارية وحوار الثقافات، دمشق: دار الفكر، 2009)، الجزء السابع
- السيد عمر، الأنا والآخر من منظور قرآني، في منى أبو الفضل ونادية مصطفى (تحرير)، سلسلة التأصيل النظري للدراسات الحضارية، (دمشق: دار الفكر، 2008)

Suggested Videos:
- Disney's Pocahontas, 1995

Part IV: Theoretical Issues: (2 weeks)

Depending on the conceptual and analytical progress that the students make –as many haven't been introduced to "international relations theory" yet, a discussion of some theoretical controversies raised by the return of culture to the center of global politics can be held. (e.g. Eurocentric, secular and positivist nature of IR theory)

No profound discussion of these theoretical issues is intended, yet questions that will be touched upon include the following interconnected questions:

- To what extent can we talk about the return of culture and identity to International Relations **Theory**?
- What theoretical controversies does the study of culture raise?
- How can we study culture?
- What is the purpose of cultural analysis?
- While addressing culture in global politics, how do theories differ in their analytical approaches: thinking about global politics/ describing global politics/ explaining global politics/ understanding global politics; where cultural approaches to world politics reveal the operations of power in the managing of global politics.
- Why do scholars speak about "the end of modernity", or the "de-secularization of the world", "the revolt against the West"(Hedley Bull) as they shed light on the "cultural turn" in IR.
- Can we think about global politics as interrelations between cultures, not just states?

Suggested readings:

- Melody Foneseca, Why Decolonise International Relations Theory?, BISA-ISA Joint International Conference, Edinburgh, 20-22 June 2012, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid , www.academia.edu
- Amitav Acharya, "Dialogue and Discovery: In Search of International Relations Theories beyond the West", Millenium, 39(3), 2011, pp. 619–637

- Branwen Gruffydd Jones, From Eurocentrism to Epistemological Internationalism: Power, Knowledge and Objectivity in Interntional Relations, paper presented at Theorizing Ontology, Annual Conference of the International Association for Critical Realism, University of Cambridge, August 2004

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- Kyle Grayson, The Rise of Popular Culture in IR: Three Issues, 2015, link: http://www.e-ir.info/2015/01/30/the-rise-of-popular-culture-in-ir-three-issues/
- Synthia Weber, International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction, (New York: Routledge, 2005), 2nd ed., pp. 1-36 /177-188
- Nukhet Sandal and Patrick James, "Religion and International Relations: Towards a Mutual Understanding", European Journal of International Relations, 17 (1), pp. 3-25
- Marco Verweij, Andrew Oros and Dominique Jacquin-Berdal, Culture in World Politics: an Introduction, in: Dominique Jacquin Berdal, Andrew Oros and Marco Verweij (eds.), **Culture in World Politics**, (Macmillan Press and Millennium, 1998), pp 1-10
- Yale Ferguson, Looking Backwards at Contemporary Polities, in: Dominique Jacquin Berdal, Andrew Oros and Marco Verweij (eds.), **Culture in World Politics**, (Macmillan Press and Millennium, 1998) , pp 11-33
- Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, "Theorizing Religious Resurgence", International Politics, Vol. 44, 2007, pp 647-665
- Richard Ned Lebow C, "Culture and International Relations: The Culture of International Relations", Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Vol. 38, 2009
- Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, "The Political Authority of Secularism in International Relations", European Journal of International Relations, 10 (2), 2004
- Adrian Pabst, "The Secularism of Post-Secularity: Religion, Realism and the Revival of Grand Theory in IR", Review of International Studies, Vol. 38, Issue 5, December 2012, pp. 995-1017
- Mona Abul-Fadl, "Contrasting Epistemics: Tawhid, the Vocationist and Social Theory", The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences, Vol. 7, No. 1, 1990

- Mona Abul-Fadl, "Islamization as a Force of Global Cultural Renewal: Of the Relevance of Tawhidi Episteme to modernity", The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences, Vol. 2, 1988.
- Mona Abul-Fadl, "Paradigms in Political Science Revisited: Critical Options and Muslim Perspectives", The American Journal of Islamic Social Science, Vol. 6, No. 1

Assessment:

This course doesn't provide final answers to any of the questions it addresses. Hence, getting acquainted with the controversial views on each topic discussed is a main goal of the course. Essential is, therefore, a lot of reading as well as serious and responsible engagement in class debates and discussions.

The grades will be distributed as follows:

1. 50% final exam

2. 20% midterm exam

3. 30% activities throughout the semester, these include:
   a.) Participation (10%):

reading ahead/ coming prepared to class (**a "C-" in participation equals being deprived from entering the final exam**)

preparing written summaries (in no more than 1 page) of the articles to be prepared for class discussions. 2 – 3 summaries will be randomly chosen and assessed each class.

b.) group assignments (10%):

(a group is composed of max. 4 students)

Note: You will be responsible for holding **a debate** on some of the issues dealt with in the second part of this course. This will be your **group assignment**. Here is a list of some possible topics that we can discuss in class (each group will be assigned a different topic):

- Cultural persecution: Where, why and for what purpose?

- Militant movements of a cultural or religious background (e.g. Zionism, ISIS, etc..)

- The destruction of cultural heritage (e.g. Iraq, Palestine)

- Cultural aspects of international conflict (e.g. conflict in the Balkan region)

- Race in international relations: does it matter?

- The peacemaking role of cultures and religions.

- The dialogue of civilizations: a myth or a reality?

Please note:

1. That each group has to prepare **a short, written presentation** of its assigned topic to share it with other class members.

2. That you have to clearly state your **references** and to carefully make sure that you resort to reliable scientific sources.

3. That the group assignment is **a shared responsibility** so all group members get a unified mark for the presentation.

c.) **a written assignment** (5 - 10 pages/ to be orally presented during section time) (10%):

analytically introduce us to a point of intersection between IR and culture. The key word in this assignment is **interdisciplinarity**; open up to approaches available in other disciplines to discuss your point. Ensuing are some suggested approaches to your assignment:

* introduce your colleagues to a prevalent debate in the literature of International relations on culture and IR.

* discuss a movie/ a short video, a documentary or a play (culture and IR in literature and arts)

* discuss some historical incident (culture in the history of IR)

* The field of cultural psychology: Does cultural identity affect the way scientists understand the world?

* Ethnography as an important anthropological approach to understanding IR.

Please note that the amount of <u>creativity and novelty</u> you invest in this assignment is a main criteria of assessment!!

Teaching Assistant will be available during section time and during her/his office hours for any consultation concerning the topic of your assignment.

Please note that your feedback throughout the course is welcome and appreciated!