M.PHIL. IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: WINTER SEMESTER 2016

IO643: Culture, Norms and Identity in World Politics

Course Teachers: Professor Varun Sahni and Professor Jayati Srivastava
Classroom: Room 112, SIS
Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM (Professor Sahni)
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM (Professor Srivastava)
Office: Room 224, SIS-I (Professor Sahni); Room 316, SIS-II (Professor Srivastava)
Office Hours: Monday, 3:00 to 5:00 PM (Prof. Varun Sahni)
Monday and Friday, 1.00 PM to 2.00 PM (Prof. Jayati Srivastava)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary intent of the course is to systematically unpack the categories of culture, norms and identity against a backdrop of broader inter-disciplinary debates pertaining to them within the social sciences. Our more specific interest is to examine the changing meanings and contexts of usage relating to these categories with a particular focus on its analytical utility in the sphere of understanding world politics.

The existing scholarship pertaining to all three categories is large and given our finite time schedule the course concentrates on some representative strands of scholarship surrounding these terms. Students are expected to keep up with contemporary journals in the field, especially World Politics, Alternatives, International Organization, International Security, Review of International Studies, European Journal of International Affairs, Journal of Asian Studies, International Studies, South Asian Survey and Millennium. All readings listed here must be treated as essential readings.

EVALUATION

Your performance in the course will be evaluated as follows:

Term Paper – 30%
Group Research and Presentation – 20%
End-Semester Examination – 50%

The term paper will be due on 18 March (Tuesday). Any late submissions for the term paper will receive a full grade deduction for every week of delay. The group presentation will take place during the last week of April. For the latter purpose, students will be divided into three Syndicates on the basis of the drawing of lots.

You are required to take a close look at the note on plagiarism in the SIS Research Manual. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and anybody who commits it will be strictly penalized. If you have any doubts regarding this, consult with your course teacher well in advance to turning in your term paper.
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Culture

12 January (Tuesday)

14 January (Tuesday)

19 January (Tuesday)

21 January (Thursday)

26 January (Tuesday) – Holiday (Republic Day)

28 January (Thursday)

2 February (Tuesday)

4 February (Thursday)

9 February (Tuesday)

11 February (Thursday)
16 February (Tuesday)

18 February (Thursday)

23 February (Tuesday)

25 February (Thursday)

1 March (Tuesday)

3 March (Thursday)

Norms

8 March (Tuesday)

10 March (Thursday)
Wendt, Alexander, Social Theory of International Relations (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), select chapters.

15 March (Tuesday)

17 March (Thursday)

22 March (Tuesday)
Price, Richard and Nina Tannenwald, ‘Norms and Deterrence: The Nuclear and Chemical Weapons

24 March (Thursday) – Holiday (Holi)

29 March (Tuesday)

31 March (Thursday)

5 April (Tuesday)

7 April (Thursday)
Percy, Sarah, Mercenaries: The History of a Norm in International Relations (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), select chapters.

Identity

12 April (Tuesday)

14 April (Thursday)

19 April (Tuesday)
Bilgrami, Akeel, ‘Notes toward the definition of “identity”’, Daedalus 135 (4), Fall 2006: 5-14.

21 April (Thursday)

26 April (Tuesday)

28 April (Thursday)

3 May (Tuesday)

12 May (Thursday) – End-Semester Examination