

SYLLABUS, Draft
Neo-institutionalism in Ethnic Studies

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2009-2010 Fall Semester

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Course Perspective

This is a course for students in the Social Science Program who have a concentration in Ethnic Studies. It is also suitable for non-specialists who are interested in a survey of ethnic and institutional issues. This course reviews the major theories and methodological approaches on how one can use institutional methods in Ethnic Studies. The principal goal is to introduce students to the basic logic and reasoning underlying key analytic tools, central theories, and the major empirical and experimental findings in Neo-institutionalism. We will illustrate these theories and approaches through the use of practical examples, including social and political ones.

By the end of this course, you should be able to

1. Identify the major schools of thought on neo-institutionalism and understand how institutions operate
2. apply the neo-institutional analysis in ethnic identity and conflict studies

There will be a set of readings assigned for each class for all participants. Individual assignments will be the following:

1. Seminar paper: You will be asked to select one topic from the list of classes below. Your seminar paper (10 pages, double-spaced) should concentrate on the topic of the class with illustrations from one (or more)

case(s) of your choice. For additional reading on your general topic, please consult the bibliography in this syllabus. The deadline for the submission of the written version of your paper will be announced. We will discuss the oral version of your paper in the seminar.

2. Discussant paper: You will be asked to select one topic from the list of classes below, on which you will be the principal discussant in that week's class discussion. Your discussant contribution should not be longer than two pages. You should not aim at a complete overview of readings, but only formulate some ideas or questions for the discussion. You are also welcome to form pairs in a debate and use your discussant's assignment to present opposing arguments based on the readings.

How to Prepare for Class Meetings

Read the assigned text twice. The first time around, get a feel for the text, what the author is trying to accomplish, what he or she is arguing. Read the text again with your own thoughts in mind. Write up your ideas and thoughts about the text and hand them in at the beginning of class.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance.** Because of the collaborative nature of the class, your attendance is required. If you are absent for more than three class periods, for any reason, you will not be allowed to pass the class. If you have a medically valid reason for having missed more than three classes, you will be asked to take a medical withdrawal.

2. **Class Participation** (10% of the final grade). Discussion of each others' ideas is important to the learning process, therefore, your active participation in class is required.

3. **Seminar Paper** (20% of the final grade). You will be graded based on 1) clarity of organization and thought, 2)

understanding and citation of course readings, 3) analytical thinking beyond description and summarization.

4. **Discussant Paper** (50% of final grade). You should briefly summarize the key points of your selected readings and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of them utilizing the neo-institutional theoretical framework.

Exam deadlines are strict; no extensions will be granted in the absence of a genuine emergency.

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. University politics on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Office Hours. To be announced. If you need to contact me, please email me at barbm@yandex.ru

Schedule of Topics

Week 1 (September 10) Introduction to the Course: Frameworks, Theories and Definitions

PART I: NEO-INSTITUTIONALISM IN SOCIAL ISSUES

Week 2 (September 17) Institutions: Functions and Rules

Week 3 (September 24) Institutional Diversity and Institutional Changes

Week 4 (October 1) Dynamics of Institutions and Institutional Evolution

Week 5 (October 8) Institutional Disintegration

Week 6 (October 15) Neo-institutional Methods in Modern Sociology

PART II: INSTITUTIONS AND ETHNIC STUDIES

Week 7 (October 22) Functional and Ontological Foundations of Ethnicity

Week 8 (October 29) Ethnicity in Modern World

Week 9 (November 5) Ethnicity: Main Approaches, Theories and Methodological Synthesis

Week 10 (November 12) Institutional Methods and Institutionalism in Ethnic Studies

Week 11 (November 19) Ethnic Identity, Rules and Norms

Week 12 (November 26) Social Capitals and Entrepreneurs in Ethnic Groups

Week 13 (December 3) Ethnic Identity and Institutional Disintegration in the Caucasus

Final exam questions handed out in class

Course Outline

Week 1 (September 10) Introduction to the Course: Frameworks, Theories and Definitions

Power Point Presentation: Methodological Foundations of Neo-institutionalism

1. Neo-institutionalism: Historical Issues
2. Subject and Object in Neo-institutionalism

Bates, Robert H. 1988. *Contra Contractarianism: Some Reflections on the New Institutionalism* // *Politics and Society* 16, pp. 387-401.

Blumstein, J. 1981. *The Resurgence of Institutionalism* // *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 1, (1), pp. 129-132.

Brinton M., Nee V. (eds.). 1998. *The New Institutionalism in Sociology* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation).

(In addition to the readings mentioned in this syllabus, additional readings may be assigned weekly)

PART I: NEO-INSTITUTIONALISM IN SOCIAL ISSUES

Week 2 (September 17) Institutions: Functions and Rules

1. Institutions: Definitions and Approaches
2. The Functional Meaning of Institutions and Rules

Bowles S. 1998. Endogenous Preferences: The Cultural Consequences of Markets and Other Economic Institutions // *Journal of Economic Literature*, 36, pp. 75-111.

Bulmer M. 1984. *The Chicago School of Sociology: Institutionalism, Diversity, and the Rise of Sociological Research* (Chicago-London: University of Chicago Press).

Week 3 (September 24) Institutional Diversity and Institutional Changes

1. Institutional Changes in Traditional and Modern Societies
2. Institutional Diversity and Changing Norms

Dewatripont M., Roland G. 1996. Transition as a Process of Large-Scale Institutional Change // *Economics of Transition*. Vol. 4, 1, pp. 1–30.

Evans P. 2004. Development as Institutional Change: The Pitfalls of Monocropping and Potentials of Deliberation // *Studies in Comparative International Development*. 38, (4), (winter). pp. 30-53

Week 4 (October 1) Dynamics of Institutions and Institutional Evolution

1. Institutional Evolution in Modern Societies
2. Institutional Choice and Dynamics of Institutions

Health A. 1976. *Rational Choice and Social Exchange* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Ostrom V. 2007. Some Developments in the Study of Market Choice, Public Choice, and Institutional Choice / Rabin J., Hildreth W.B., and Miller G. (eds.). Handbook of Public Administration, 3rd ed. (New York: CRC Press), pp. 1101-21.

Week 5 (October 8) Institutional Disintegration

1. Institutions and Macro-norms
2. Disintegration of Institutions and Creation of New Institutions

Posner E. 2000. Law and Social Norms (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press).

Ullmann-Margalit, Edna. 1977. The Emergence of Norms (Oxford: Clarendon).

Wright, Georg Henrik von. 1963. Norms and Action: A Logical Enquiry (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul).

Week 6 (October 15) Neo-institutional Methods in Modern Sociology

1. Applications of Institutional Methods to Collective Choice Issues
2. Puzzles and Challenges of Neo-institutional Methods

Allport F. H. 1962. A Structuronomic Conception of Behavior: Individual and Collective // Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, 64, pp. 3-30.

Bendor J., Mookherjee D. 1987. Institutional Structure and the Logic of Ongoing Collective Action // American Political Science Review, 81 (1), (March), pp. 129 – 54

PART II: INSTITUTIONS AND ETHNIC STUDIES

Week 7 (October 22) Functional and Ontological Foundations of Ethnicity

1. Functional Meaning of Ethnicity
2. Ethnicity: Symbolic and Ontological Meanings

Brass P. 1991. *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Theory and Comparison* (New Delhi, Newbury Park and London: Sage Publications).

Hale, H. 2004. *Explaining Ethnicity // Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 37, no. 4, (May).

Week 8 (October 29) Ethnicity in Modern World

1. Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflicts in Modern Societies
2. “New Ethnicity” in Global and Electronic Communications

Lake David and Donald Rotchild. 1996. *Ethnic Fears and Global Engagement: The International Spread and Management of Ethnic Conflict* (An IGCC Policy Paper).

Lal B. B. 1983. *Perspectives on Ethnicity: Old Wine in New Bottles // Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Vol. 6. p. 2.

Lola Romanucci-Ross and George DeVos. ed. 1995. *Ethnic Identity: Creation, Conflict, and Accommodation*. Third Edition (London: A Division of Sage Publications).

Week 9 (November 5) Ethnicity: Main Approaches, Theories and Methodological Synthesis

1. Ethnicity: Primordial and Constructivist Approaches
2. Ethnicity and Methodological Synthesis

Eller J. D., Coughlan R. M. 1993. The Poverty of Primordialism: The Demystification of Ethnic Attachments // *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 16. (2).

Hechter M. 1986. Theories of Ethnic Relations // *The Primordial Challenge: Ethnicity in Contemporary World* / ed. by J. Stark (New York: Columbia University Press).

McKay J. 1982. An Explanatory Synthesis of Primordial and Mobilizationist Approaches to Ethnic Phenomena // *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 5, (4).

Week 10 (November 12) Institutional Methods and Institutionalism in Ethnic Studies

1. Institutional Methods and Institutionalism
2. Institutional Methods in Ethnic Studies

Nee V. 1998. Sources of the New Institutionalism / Brinton M., Nee V. (eds.). *The New Institutionalism in Sociology* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation), pp. 1-16.

North, Douglass C. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Week 11 (November 19) Ethnic Identity, Rules and Norms

1. Rules, Norms and Ethnicity
2. Ethnicity as New Rules

Coleman James S. 1987. Norms as a Social Capital // Economic Imperialism: The Economic Approach Applied Outside the Field of Economics, ed. Gerard Radnitzky and Peter Bernholz (New York: Paragon House), pp. 133-55.

Ostrom E. 2000. Collective Action and the Evolution of Social Norms // Journal of Economic Perspectives, 14(3), pp. 137-58.

Yamagishi, Toshio; and Nobuyuki Takahashi. 1994. Evolution of Norms without Metanorms // Social Dilemmas and Cooperation, ed. Ulrich Schulz, Wulf Albers and Ulrich Mueller (Berlin: Springer-Verlag), pp. 311-26.

Week 12 (November 26) Social Capitals and Entrepreneurs in Ethnic Groups

1. Social Capital: Meanings and Functions
2. Ethnic Entrepreneurs and Social Capital
3. Ethnic Entrepreneurs in Ethnic Communities

Brehm, John, and Wendy Rahn. 1997. Individual-Level Evidence for the Causes and Consequences of Social Capital // American Journal of Political Science 41(3), (July), pp. 999–1023.

Coleman J. S. 1988. Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital // American Journal of Sociology, Supplement. S., 94, pp. 95-120.

Light, Ivan. 1995. *Race, Ethnicity and Entrepreneurship in Urban America* (Berkeley: University of California Press).

Yu, Tony Fu-Lai. 2001. An Entrepreneurial Perspective of Institutional Change // *Constitutional Political Economy* 12(3), (September), pp. 217–36.

Week 13 (December 3) Ethnic Identity and Institutional Disintegration in the Caucasus

1. Ethnicity as a Result of Institutional Disintegration
2. New Perspectives in Ethnic Studies
3. Ethnicity in the Caucasus from the Neo-institutional Point of View

Atabaki Touraj. 2005. *Central Asia and the Caucasus: Transnationalism and Diaspora* (co-edited with S. Mehendale), (London and New York: Routledge).

Barbashin M. U. 2008. *Informal Power Structures in Russia and Ethno-political Conflict in the Northern Caucasus* // *Ethno-nationalism, Islam and the State in the Caucasus: Post-Soviet Disorder*. ed. by Moshe Gammer (London and New York: Routledge), pp. 1-19.

McKay, James; and Frank Lewins, 1978. Ethnicity and the Ethnic Group: A Conceptual Analysis and Reformulation // *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 1(4), pp. 412-27.

Parkin D. 1974. *Congregational and Interpersonal Ideologies in Political Ethnicity* // *Urban Ethnicity* / ed. by A. Cohen (London: Tavistock Publishers).