Legitimacy in International Relations: Between Soft Power and Conflict Resolution - 58482

Last update 18-07-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: International Relations

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Daniel F. Wajner

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Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 18:00-18:30, 20:00-20:30

Teaching Staff:
Mr.
Course/Module description:
The present course delves deeper into one subject that has occupied a place of honor in contemporary International Relations—the dynamics of legitimacy and legitimation in world politics. Politicians, journalists, and analysts refer constantly to the legitimation and de-legitimation processes of certain states, political regimes, international organizations or non-governmental organizations, and make assessments of how those actors resonate with international audiences through the performance of multiple legitimation strategies. Given the vagueness of these arguments, this course aims to familiarize students with the burgeoning IR literature that has focused on international legitimacy, as well as to provide them with basic theoretical, epistemological and methodological tools to conduct analysis on worldwide cases adopting a legitimacy perspective.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
The course is divided into four sections. We firstly approach into the concept of international legitimacy and its relations with linked notions such as (soft) power, authority, legality, norms, anarchy, and diplomacy. We then analyze why diverse national, regional and global actors are in a constant quest for legitimacy due to the current "performative" politics, and the ways they manage to deal with the respective challenges they face. In the third section we examine how these actors may turn from objects into subjects of the (de)legitimation dynamics through rhetorical strategies, as well as the dilemmas derived from being capable of influencing either towards the use of force on international conflicts or during negotiated peace processes. We finally discuss the prospect of conducting research and contributing to the development of legitimacy studies as a research program.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Course requirements, assignments and grading
Students are expected to demonstrate active participation throughout the course, to submit discussion questions based on the reading assigned (for at least five lessons), and to deliver a final assignment related to one of the topics studied in class.
Grading: 20% class participation, 20% discussion questions, 60% final assignment.
Course/Module Content:
1) Introduction to International Legitimacy: sources, mechanisms, effects
2) Legitimacy, Power and Authority
3) Legitimacy, Norms and Legality
4) The Quest for Legitimacy: Audiences, Persuasion, Rhetorical Strategies
5) Regimes' Legitimacy and "Legitimation Crisis"
6) The Legitimacy of International Orders and their Hegemonic Powers
7) The Legitimacy of International and Regional Organizations
8) Legitimation Battles and the Use of Force in International Conflicts
9) International and Regional Organizations as Legitimizing Agents
10) Non-Governmental Organizations as Legitimizing Agents
11) Legitimacy and Legitimation in Conflict Resolution and Peace Negotiations
12) Methodologies for Studying Legitimacy and Legitimation Dynamics
13) Legitimacy Studies in IR: Quo Vadis?

Required Reading:
See in the MOODLE page of the course.

Additional Reading Material:
(Students are not required to read all the materials, but only some of them, as of their choice).

Lesson 1 - Introduction to International Legitimacy: sources, mechanisms, effects.
Lesson 2 - Legitimacy, Power and Authority

Lesson 3 - Legitimacy, Norms and Legality
Lesson 4 - The Quest for Legitimacy: Audiences, Persuasion, Rhetorical Strategies.
Ronald R. Krebs, and Patrick Thaddeus Jackson. 2007. Twisting Tongues and
Emanuel Adler, 2010. "Damned If You Do, Damned If You Don't: Performative Power
Piki Ish-Shalom, 2011. "Defining by naming: Israeli civic warring over the Second
Lebanon War." European Journal of International Relations 17.3: 475-493.
of International Relations 7(1): 37-61
21(1):3-42.
Robert M. Entman 1993. "Framing: Toward clarification of a fractured
paradigm"Journal of communication 43:4,51-8
Wajner, Daniel F. and Luis Roniger, 2019. Transnational Identity Politics in the
Americas: Reshaping Nuestramerica as Chavismo's regional legitimation

Lesson 5 - Regimes' Legitimacy and Legitimation Crisis.
York: Columbia University Press.
44(2):157-174
Niklas Luhmann, 1987, "The representation of society within society: The sociology
Claire A. Cutler, 2001. "Critical reflections on the Westphalian assumptions of
international law and organization: a crisis of legitimacy." Review of International
Studies 27.02, 133-150.
Daniel F. Wajner, 2017. Learning for Legitimacy: The Gaza Flotilla Case of
Meaningful Learning in Foreign-Policy Strategic Planning. Paper presented at the

Lesson 6 - The Legitimacy of International Orders and their Hegemonic Powers
Ian Clark, "Legitimacy in a global order." Review of International Studies 29.S1
.75-95 :(2003)
Martha Finnemore, 2009. Legitimacy, hypocrisy, and the social structure of


Lesson 7 - The Legitimacy of International and Regional Organizations

Lesson 8 - Legitimation Battles and the Use of Force in International Conflicts

Lesson 9 - International and Regional Organizations as Legitimizing Agents

Lesson 10 - Non-Governmental Organizations as Legitimizing Agents

Lesson 11- Legitimacy & Legitimation in Conflict Resolution and Peace Negotiations


Lesson 12 - Methodologies for Studying Legitimacy and Legitimation Dynamics


Lesson 13 - Legitimacy Studies in IR: Quo Vadis?

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 60 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: