The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Political Tactics Talk and the International System: On discourse and Practice in International Po - 58550

Last update 21-08-2025

<u>HU Credits:</u> 4

<u>Degree/Cycle:</u> 1st degree (Bachelor)

<u>Responsible Department:</u> International Relations

<u>Academic year:</u> 0

<u>Semester:</u>

<u>Teaching Languages:</u> Hebrew

<u>Campus:</u> Mt. Scopus

<u>Course/Module Coordinator:</u> Prof Piki Ish-Shalom

 <u>Coordinator Email:</u> pikiis@huji.ac.il

<u>Coordinator Office Hours:</u> Tuesday 1200-1300

Course/Module description:
   In the course, we will discuss the status, importance, and implications of words, and their related linguistic phenomena (such as narratives, metaphors, and political concepts) in international politics. We will explore different theoretical frameworks and case studies, and we will do it in an active and participatory manner, combining class discussions, and individual research, culminating in a research paper.

Course/Module aims:
   In the Seminar we will discuss the status, importance, and implications of words, and their related linguistic phenomena (such as narratives, metaphors, and political concepts) in international politics. We will focus on such concepts as security, democracy, peace, and war. We will study the different attitudes to these linguistic entities among various theoretical frameworks, and we will understand the implications of these different perspectives on the practice of international politics, and its study.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
   To describe the implications of words and concepts in international politics

To explain the different mechanisms through which concepts operate in international politics

To compare different theories and their understandings of the importance of words in international politics

To analyze case studies in international politics in which narratives had an impact

Attendance requirements(%):
   100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Discussions in class and independent research guided by the lecturer

<u>Course/Module Content:</u>
  argumentation and deliberation

speech acts and securitization

narratives and metaphors

names

Visuality

concepts and politics

political and academic implications

<u>Required Reading:</u>

Crawford, Neta (2009), "Homo Politicus and Argument (Nearly) All the Way down: Persuasion in Politics," Perspectives on Politics, 7(1), 103-124.

Cohn, Carol (1987), "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 12:4, pp. 687-718.

Jennifer, Mitzen (2015), "Illusion or Intention? Talking Grand Strategy into Existence," Security Studies, 24:1, 61-94.

Lynch, Marc (2002), "Why Engage? China and the Logic of Communicative Engagement," European Journal of International Relations 8(2):187-230.

Risse, Thomas (2000), "Let's Argue!": Communicative Action in World Politics," International Organization 54(1), 1-39.

Kornprobst, Marcus and Martin Senn (2016), "A Rhetorical Field Theory: Background, Communication, and Change," The British Journal of Politics and International Relations 18(2):300-317.

Krebs, Ronald R and Patrick T. Jackson (2007), "Twisting Tongues and Twisting Arms: The Power of Political Rhetoric," European Journal of International Relations 13(1):35-66.

Milliken, Jennifer (1999), "The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods," European Journal of International Relations 5(2):225-254.

Chilton, Paul (2003), Analyzing Political Discourse: Theory and Practice. London and

New York: Routledge.

Williams, Michael C. (2003), "Words, Images, Enemies: Securitization and International Politics," *International Studies Quarterly* 47 (4):511–531.

Hansen, Lene (2011), "The Politics of Securitization and the Muhammad Cartoon Crisis: A Post-structuralist Perspective," *Security Dialogue* 42(4-5):357-369.

Abramson, Yehonatan (2023), "Securitizing the Nation beyond the State: Diasporas as Threats, Victims, and Assets," *European Journal of International Relations* 30(1): 78-103.

Hansen, Lene (2000), "The Little Mermaid's Silent Security Dilemma and the Absence of Gender in the Copenhagen School," *Millennium* 29(2): 285-306.

Buzan, Barry, Ole Wæver, and Jaap de Wilde (1998), *Security: A New Framework for Analysis.* Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Stritzel, Holger (2007), "Towards a Theory of Securitization: Copenhagen and Beyond," *European Journal of International Relations* 13(3):357-383.

Baker-Beall, Christopher (2019), "The Threat of the 'Returning Foreign Fighter': The Securitization of EU Migration and Border Control Policy," *Security Dialogue* 50(5):437-453.

Aradau, Claudia (2004), "Security and the Democratic Scene: Desecuritization and Emancipation," *Journal of International Relations and Development* 7(4):388–413.

Wilkinson, Claire (2014), "The Copenhagen School on Tour in Kyrgyzstan: Is Securitization Theory Useable Outside Europe?" *Security Dialogue* 38(1):5-25.

Lupovici, Amir (2014), "The Limits of Securitization Theory: Observational Criticism and the Curious Absence of Israel," *International Studies Review* 16(3):390-410.

Shenhav, Shaul (2015), *Analyzing Social Narratives,* New York and London: Routledge.

Miskimmon, A., O'Loughlin, B., & Roselle, L. (2012). *Forging the world: Strategic narratives and international relations.*

Hinck, R. S., Kluver, R., & Cooley, S. (2018). Russia re-envisions the world: Strategic narratives in Russian broadcast and news media during 2015. *Russian Journal of Communication,* 10(1), 21-37.

Wibben, Annick T. R. (2011), Feminist Security Studies: A Narrative Approach, New York and London: Routledge.

Stanley, Liam and Richard Jackson (2016), "Introduction: Everyday Narratives in World Politics", Politics 36(3):223-235.

Ravecca, Paulo and Elizabeth Dauphinee (2018), "Narrative and the Possibilities for Scholarship," International Political Sociology 12 (2):125–138,

Roberts, Geoffrey (2006), "History, Theory and the Narrative Turn in International Relations," Review of International Studies 32(4):703-714.

Breuer, Adam and Iain Alastair Johnston (2019), "Memes, Narratives and the Emergent US–China Security Dilemma," Cambridge Review of International Affairs 32(4):429-455.
Berger, Jonah and Katherine. L. Milkman (2012), "What Makes Online Content Viral?" Journal of Marketing Research 49(2):192–205.

McCullagh, C. Behan (1987), "The Truth of Historical Narratives," History and Theory 26(4):30-46.

Suganami, Hidemi (1999), "Agents, Structures, Narratives," European Journal of International Relations 5(3):365-386.

Krebs, Ronald R. (2015), Narrative, and the Making of US National Security. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Roselle Laura, Alister Miskimmon and Ben O'Loughlin (2014), "Strategic Narrative: A New Means to Understand Soft Power," Media, War & Conflict 7(1):70-84.

Andrews, Molly Catarina Kinnvall and Kristen Monroe (2015), "Narratives of (In)Security: Nationhood, Culture, Religion, and Gender: Introduction to the Special Issue," Political Psychology 36(2):141-149.

Fine, Gary Alan, and Lazaros Christoforides (1991), "Dirty Birds, Filthy Immigrants, and the English Sparrow War: Metaphorical Linkage in Constructing Social Problems," Symbolic Interaction 14 (4):375–93.

Evans, Gareth, and Mohamed Sahnoun (2002), "The Responsibility to Protect," Foreign Affairs 81(6):99–110.

Breeze, Ruth and María Fernanda Novoa-Jaso (Online First), "Is this War? Naming the Russia-Ukraine Dispute in Three International News Providers," Journal of Language Aggression and Conflict.

Gavriely-Nuri, Dalia (2010), "Rainbow, Snow, and the Poplar's Song: The "Annihilative Naming" of Israeli Military Practices," Armed Forces & Society 36(5), 825–842.

Kidron, Uri and Piki (Online First), "The Populist Name Game: About Populism and Naming," Political Studies Review.

Ish-Shalom, Piki (2011), "Defining by naming: Israeli civic warring over the Second Lebanon War," European Journal of International Relations 17(3), 475-493.

Schlag, Gabi (2019), "The Afterlife of Osama bin Laden: Performative Pictures in the 'War on Terror'," Critical Studies on Terrorism 12(1):1-18.

Seo, H. (2014). Visual propaganda in the age of social media: An empirical analysis of Twitter images during the 2012 Israeli–Hamas conflict. Visual Communication Quarterly, 21(3), 150161. https://doi.org/10.1080/15551393.2014.955501

Rebecca, Adler-Nissen, Andersen, Katrine and Lene Hansen (2020), "Images, emotions, and International Politics: The Death of Alan Kurdi," Review of International Studies,46(1):75-95.

Peoples, Columba (2008), "Decoding Ballistic Missile Defense: Semiotics and the Power of the Image in American Ballistic Missile Defense," Social Semiotics 18(1):17-31.

Hansen, Lene (2011), "Theorizing the image for Security Studies: Visual securitization and the Muhammad Cartoon Crisis," European Journal of International Relations 17(1):51-74.

Gallie, W.B. (1956), "Essentially Contested Concepts," Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society 56:167-198.

Kurki, Milja (2010), "Democracy and Conceptual Contestability: Reconsidering Conceptions of Democracy in Democracy Promotion," International Studies Review 12(3): 362-386.

Koselleck, Reinhard (1996), "A Response to Comments on Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe," in The Meaning of Historical Terms and Concepts, Occasional Paper 15, edited by Hartmut Lehmann and Melvin Richter, pp. 59–70 Washington, DC: German Historical Institute.

Hobson, Christopher and Milja Kurki, editors (2012), *The Conceptual Politics of Democracy Promotion*, New York and London: Routledge.

Berenskoetter, Felix, editor (2016), *Concepts in World Politics*, Sage.

Ish-Shalom, Piki, editor (2021), *Concepts at Work: On the Linguistic Infrastructure of World Politics*, Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Joseph, Jonathan and Ana E. (2024), "Conceptual politics and resilience-at-work in the European Union," *Review of International Studies* 50(2):373-392.

Clark, Janine Natalya (2024), "Resilience as a 'concept at work' in the War in Ukraine: Exploring its International and Domestic Significance," *Review of International Studies* 50(4):720-740.

Amster, Randall (2020), "The Insecurity of "Security," *Peace Review* 32(4): 521–526.

Ish-Shalom, Piki (2019), *Beyond the Veil of Knowledge: Triangulating Security, Democracy, and Academic Scholarship*, Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

 Additional Reading Material:

 Grading Scheme:
  Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 45 %
  Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %
  Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 45 %

Additional information:
  4 additional credits will be accredited for the research paper

4 credits will be graded by the intermediate tasks