

Discourse of Political Methodologies

POS 6933 SECTION 6695

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE - UF

FALL 2008

Prof. Badredine Arfi

Office: 209 Anderson Hall; Phone: (352) 273-2357

Place: Anderson 216 or occasionally UST 101 (TBA)

Time: W 8:30 - 11:30pm - Periods 2-4

Email: barfi@ufl.edu

Office hours: Mondays 4:00-5:00p.m.; Tuesdays 4:00-5:00p.m.; By appointment

DESCRIPTION

Political scientists use a variety of different so-called quantitative and qualitative methods to systematically study politics. The course seeks to reach an understanding of the methodological presuppositions and assumptions as well as strengths and limitations underpinning the variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods used in political science. To this end, the course adopts a discursive approach. We thus ask the question: How does "discourse" shape these methods? This is an important question because our research - theory development and empirical analysis - is always expressed in a human language. The latter is organized in discourses. The question driving this course is thus: How do methodological discourses impact on our research endeavors? In sum, we discuss the logical, political, rhetorical, and ethical implications of adopting a given research methodology. The main aim of the course is thus to give students a number of tools from "discourse theory" that can be used to evaluate and critique in a systematic way the strengths and limitations of various research methods used in social and political analysis.

In this pursuit, the course introduces students to various theories of discourse with an eye on the question of using these theories to understand the role that discourse plays in defining methodologies used in political science. We will devote a major part of the semester to discussing a variety of theories of discourse, concentrating specifically on Foucault's archeology/genealogy and Derrida's deconstruction.

A major requirement of the course – its ‘**practice**’ aspect – is that each student writes a term paper (in addition to ten weekly summary papers) that applies both a Foucauldian and a Derridean approach to analyzing how discourse shapes one specific method technique – e.g., statistical hypothesis testing, historical comparative analysis, qualitative interpretative analysis, process tracing analysis, narrative analysis, game theoretic approach, etc. – used in political science. Each student is required to first understand the specific method that he/she chooses and then analyze the discourse underpinning this method using BOTH a Foucauldian (archeological and/or genealogical) approach and a Derridean deconstructive approach to analyze the logical, rhetorical, ontological, epistemological, and ethical presuppositions of the chosen method. In brief: each student is required to analyze the methodology underpinning his/her chosen method.

CONSTITUTIVE AND REGULATIVE RULES

- Students are required to “digest” the weekly readings before each class and thus come to class prepared to fully discuss the readings in depth and share their wisdom with the class.
- Each student is required to formulate two discussion questions generated by the readings each week, and submit them to the course WebCT every Tuesday 1:00-11:59pm (look for Weekly Questions folder)
- Each student is required to write ten 3-page summary papers over the course of the semester. The papers are to be submitted to WebCT on Tuesday 1:00-11:59pm (look for Weekly Student Paper Folder).
- Each student is required to make one 15-minute presentation and lead the subsequent discussion for the first hour of class on the topics addressed in one of his/her weekly summary/critique papers. The student making the presentation should submit his/her paper to WebCT on Tuesday 1:00-8:00pm (look for Presentations folder). The remaining students should download the paper being presented from the same folder, read it before class and be prepared to raise issues from it in the class discussion ensuing from the presentation.
- A major component of the course evaluation will be a term research paper. Each student will produce a manuscript of high quality as explained in the introduction up above.
- **There is a zero-percent tolerance on plagiarism: see file describing plagiarism (posted on WebCT).**

GRADING POLICY

- Class participation: 5% of the final grade.
- Submitting through email two questions every week: 15 sets of questions are required and count all-together for 5% of the final grade.
- Presenting paper and leading the ensuing discussion: 10% of the final grade.
- Each weekly paper: 5% of the final grade. Thus: ten required papers → 50% of the final grade.
- Research paper: 30% of the final grade.

Note: Late papers will not be accepted.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All these texts are on reserve at the Library West. All can be purchased at the local bookstores or online.

1. Andersen, Niels Akerstrom. 2003. Discursive Analytical Strategies: Understanding Foucault, Koselleck, Laclau, Luhmann. The Policy Press.
2. Culler, Jonathan. 1982. On Deconstruction: Theory and Criticism after Structuralism. Cornell University Press.
3. Derrida, Jacques. 1978. Writing and Difference. University of Chicago Press.
4. Derrida, Jacques. 1982. Margins of Philosophy. University of Chicago Press.
5. Derrida, Jacques. 1997. Of Grammatology. Johns Hopkins University Press.
6. Foucault, Michel. 1972. The Archaeology of Knowledge and the Discourse on Language. Pantheon Books.
7. Foucault, Michel. 1990. The History of Sexuality: An Introduction. Volume I. Vintage Books.
8. Foucault, Michel. 2003. Society Must Be Defended. Lectures at the Collège de France 1975-1976. Picador Press.
9. Howarth, David. 2000. Discourse. Open University Press.
10. Nelson, John S. 1998. Tropes of Politics: Science, Theory, Rhetoric, Action. University of Wisconsin Press.
11. Rogers, Rolf E. 1969. Max Weber's Ideal Type Theory. Philosophical Library, Inc.
12. Weber, Max. 1949. The Methodology of the Social Sciences. The Free Press. Chaps I and II

Additional readings posted on WebCT.

Weekly Reading Assignments and Outline of the Course

PART I: METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Week 1 / August 27: Of Methodology? Thoughts, Challenges, Tasks and Stakes

All readings on WebCT

1. Petrie, Hugh G. 1968. The Strategy Sense of 'Methodology'. *Philosophy of Science* 35 (3): 248-257.
2. Sartori, Giovanni. 1970. Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics. *American Political Science Review* LXIV (4): 1033-1053.
3. Bevir, Mark and Asaf Kedar. 2008. Concept Formation in Political Science: An Anti-Naturalist Critique of Qualitative Methodology. *Perspectives on Politics* 6 (3): 503-517.
4. Sederberg, Peter C. 1972. Subjectivity and Typification : A Note on Method in the Social Sciences. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 2: 167-176.
5. Lakatos, Imre. 1970. History of Science and Its Rational Reconstructions. *Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, VIII, Proceedings of the Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association* Vol. 1970: 91-136.
6. Laudan, Larry. 1976. Two Dogmas of Methodology. *Philosophy of Science* 43: 585-597.
7. Sarkar, Husain. 1980. Imre Lakatos' Meta-Methodology: An Appraisal. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 10 (4): 397-416.
8. Sarkar, Husain. 1981. Truth, Problem-Solving and Methodology. *Studies in History of Philosophy of Science* 12 (1): 61-73.
9. Laudan, Larry. 1982. Problems, Truth, and Consistency. *Studies in History of Philosophy of Science* 13 (1): 73 - 80.
10. Sarkar, Husain. 1983. In Defence of Truth. *Studies in History of Philosophy of Science* 14 (1): 67-79.
11. Martin, Michael. 1987. Sarkar's Theory of Method. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 17 (2): 249-256.
12. D'agostino, Fred. 1988. The Sacralization of Social Scientific Discourse. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 18: 21-39.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: LABOR DAY

Week 2 / September 3: Weber's Methodology of Social Sciences

1. Weber, Max. 1949. The Methodology of the Social Sciences. The Free Press. Chaps I and II (On reserve)
2. Rogers, Rolf E. 1969. Max Weber's Ideal Type Theory. Philosophical Library, Inc. (On reserve).
3. Weber, Max. Science as a Vocation. (WebCT).
4. Olivier, Bert. 2000. Discourse, Genealogy, Social Theory and a Society in Transition: The Challenge Facing the Human Sciences. *Society in Transition* 31 (1): 45-68. (WebCT)

Week 3/ September 10: Rooting/Un-rooting, Critiquing Weber's Methodology

All readings on WebCT

1. Cahnman, Werner J. 1965. Ideal Type Theory: Max Weber's Concept and Some of its Derivations. *The Sociological Quarterly* 6 (3): 268-80.
2. Goddard, David. 1973. Max Weber and the Objectivity of Social Science. *History and Theory* 12 (1): 1-22.
3. Barker, Martin. 1980. Kant as a Problem for Weber. *British Journal of Sociology* 31 (2): 224-245.
4. Herva, Soma. 1988. The Genesis of Max Weber's *Verstehende Soziologie*. *Acta Sociologica* 31 (2): 143-56.
5. Oakes, Guy. 1988. Rickert's Value Theory and the Foundations of Weber's Methodology. *Sociological Theory* 6 (Spring): 38-51.
6. Eliaeson, Sven. 1990. Influences on Max Weber's Methodology. *Acta Sociologica* 33 (1): 15-30.
7. Drysdale, John. 1996. How Are Social-Scientific Concepts Formed? A Reconstruction of Max Weber's Theory of Concept Formation. *Sociological Theory* 14 (1): 71-88.
8. Lindbek, Tore. 1992. The Weberian Ideal-type: Development and Continuities. *Acta Sociologica* 35: 285-297.
9. Oakes, Guy. 1998. On the Unity of Max Weber's Methodology. *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* 12 (2): 293-306.
10. Vandenberghe, Frederic. 1999. Simmel and Weber as Ideal-Typical Founders of Sociology. *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 25 (4): 57-80.

11. Eliaeson, Sven. 2000. Max Weber's Methodology - An Ideal-Type. *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 36 (3): 241-63.
12. Oakes, Guy. 2001. The Antinomy of Values: Weber, Tolstoy and the Limits of Scientific Rationality. *Journal of Classical Sociology* 1 (2): 195-211.

PART II: DISCOURSE IN SOCIAL THEORY

Week 4/ September 17: Introduction to Various Theories of Discourse

1. Howarth, David. 2000. Discourse. Open University Press. (On reserve)
2. Brown, L. P. 1975. Epistemology and Method: Althusser, Foucault, and Derrida. *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 3: 147-163. (WebCT)

PART III: THE ROLE OF RHETORIC IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Week 5/ September 24: Tropes of Politics: From Figures to Inquiry

1. Nelson, John S. 1998. Tropes of Politics: Science, Theory, Rhetoric, Action. University of Wisconsin Press. Chaps. 1-5 (On reserve)

Week 6/ October 1: Tropes of Politics: To Myths of Action¹

1. Nelson, John S. 1998. Tropes of Politics: Science, Theory, Rhetoric, Action. University of Wisconsin Press. Chaps. 6-10 (On reserve)
2. Doty, Roxanne Lynn. 2004. Maladies of Our Souls: Identity and Voice in the Writing of Academic International Relations. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 1 (2): 377-392. (WebCT)

PART IV: FOUCAULT'S APPROACH

Week 7/ October 8: Archaeology I

1. Powers, Penny. 2007. The Philosophical Foundations of Foucaultian Discourse Analysis. *Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis across Disciplines* 1 (2): 18-34. (WebCT)

¹ This class will be rescheduled to be held on another day of the week upon agreement with all students.

2. Foucault, Michel. 1972. The Archaeology of Knowledge and the Discourse on Language. Pantheon Books. Parts I, II, III (On reserve)

Week 8/ October 15: Archaeology II

1. Foucault, Michel. 1972. The Archaeology of Knowledge and the Discourse on Language. Pantheon Books. Parts IV & V, Appendix. (On reserve)

Week 9/ October 22: Genealogy I

1. Foucault, Michel. 1990. The History of Sexuality: An Introduction. Volume I. Vintage Books. (On reserve)
2. Foucault, Michel. 1977. "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History." In: *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews*, edited by D. F. Bouchard. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (WebCT)
3. Foucault, Michel. 1988. "Technologies of the Self." In: Technologies of the Self: A Seminar with Michel Foucault, edited by Martin, L. H. et al., pp.16-49. London: Tavistock. Also In: Michel Foucault. Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth, edited by Paul Rabinow, 223-251. The New Press. (WebCT)
4. Foucault, Michel. 2003. Society Must Be Defended. Lectures at the Collège de France 1975-1976. Picador Press. Lectures 7 January, 14 January, and 21 January 1976, pp. 1-64. (On reserve)

Week 10/ October 29: Genealogy II

1. Levy, Neil. 1998. History as Struggle: Foucault's Genealogy of Genealogy. *History of the Human Sciences* 11 (4): 159-170. (WebCT)
2. Jacques, Carlos T. 1991. Whence Does the Critic Speak? A Study of Foucault's Genealogy. *Philosophy Social Criticism* 17: 325-344. (WebCT)
3. Spiegel, Gabrielle M. 2001. Foucault and the Problem of Genealogy. *The Medieval History Journal* 4 (1): 1-14. (WebCT)
4. Evans, Fred. 2001. Genealogy and the Problem of Affirmation in Nietzsche, Foucault and Bakhtin. *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 27 (3): 41-65. (WebCT)

5. Tamboukou, Maria. 1999. Writing Genealogies: An Exploration of Foucault's Strategies for Doing Research. *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education* 20 (2): 201-218. (WebCT)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24: HOMECOMING

Week 11/ November 5: Genealogy III

1. Shiner, Larry. 1982. Reading Foucault: Anti-Method and the Genealogy of Power-Knowledge. *History & Theory* 21 (3): 382-398. (WebCT)
2. Gillan, Garth. 1987. Foucault's Philosophy. *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 12: 145-155.
3. Paden, Roger. 1986. Locating Foucault - Archaeology vs. Structuralism. *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 11: 19-37. (WebCT)
4. McGushin, Edward. 2005. Foucault and the Problem of the Subject. *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 31 (5-6): 623-648. (WebCT)
5. Baert, Patrick. 1998. Foucault's History of the Present as Self-referential Knowledge Acquisition. *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 24 (6): 111-126. (WebCT)
6. Caborn, Joannah. 2007. On the Methodology of Dispositive Analysis. *Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis Across Disciplines* 1 (1): 115-123. (WebCT)

PART IV: DERRIDA'S APPROACH

Week 12/ November 12: Prelude to Derrida

1. Culler, Jonathan. 1982. On Deconstruction: Theory and Criticism after Structuralism. Cornell University Press. Chap. II (On reserve)
2. Schalkwyk, David. 1997. What Does Derrida Mean by 'The Text'? *Language Sciences* 19 (4): 381-390. (WebCT)
3. Mowitt, John. 2002. What Is a Text Today? *Theories and Methodologies PMLA* 117 (5): 1217-1221. (WebCT)
4. Derrida, Jacques. *Letter to a Japanese Friend*. (WebCT)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS DAY

Week 13/ November 19: Deconstruction I

1. Derrida, Jacques. 1997. Of Grammatology. Johns Hopkins University Press. Part I: Chaps. 1, 2, 3 & Part II: Chap. 1. (On reserve)

Week 14/ November 26: Deconstruction II

1. Derrida, Jacques. 1997. Of Grammatology. Johns Hopkins University Press. Part II: Chaps. 2, 3, 4. (On reserve)

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27-28: THANKSGIVING

Week 15/ December 3: Deconstruction III

1. Derrida, Jacques. 1982. "Différance." Margins of Philosophy, pp. 1-28. (On reserve)
2. Derrida, Jacques. 1982. "Form and Meaning: A Note on the Phenomenology of Language." Margins of Philosophy, pp. 155-174. (On reserve)
2. Aristotle. "Categories." (On WebCT)
3. Derrida, Jacques. 1982. "The Supplement of Copula: Philosophy before Linguistics." Margins of Philosophy, pp. 175-206. (On reserve)
4. Derrida, Jacques. 1982. "Signature Event Context." Margins of Philosophy, pp. 307-330. (On reserve)

Week 16/ December 10: Deconstruction IV

1. Derrida, Jacques. 1978. "Force and Signification." In: Writing and Difference, pp. 3-30. (On reserve)
2. Derrida, Jacques. 1978. "Freud and the Scene of Writing." In: Writing and Difference, pp. 196-231. (On reserve)
3. Derrida, Jacques. 1978. "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences." In: Writing and Difference, pp. 278-293. (On reserve)
4. Noorderhaven, Niels. 1995. The Argumentational Texture of Transaction Cost Economics. Organizational Studies 16 (4): 605-623. (WebCT)
5. Macleod, Catriona. 2002. Deconstructive Discourse Analysis: Extending the Methodological Conversation. South African Journal of Psychology 32 (1): 17-25. (WebCT)

6. Kleinberg, Ethan. 2007. Haunting History: Deconstruction and the Spirit of Revision. *History and Theory* 46 (December): 113-143. (WebCT)
7. Andersen, Niels Akerstrom. 2003. Discursive Analytical Strategies: Understanding Foucault, Koselleck, Laclau, Luhmann. The Policy Press. (On reserve)
8. Gannon, Susanne. 2006. The (Im)Possibilities of Writing the Self-Writing: French Poststructural Theory and Autoethnography. *Cultural Studies/Critical Methodologies* 6 (4): 474-495. (WebCT)
9. Leledakis, Kanakis. 2000. Derrida, Deconstruction and Social Theory. *European Journal of Social Theory* 3 (2): 175-193. (WebCT)
10. Watson, Heather and Trevor Wood-Harper. 1996. Deconstruction Contexts in Interpreting Methodology. *Journal of Information Technology* 11: 59-70. (WebCT)
11. Kamuf, Peggy. 1999. The Experience of Deconstruction. *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* 4 (3): 3-14. (WebCT)

READING DAYS DECEMBER 11-12

TERM PAPER DUE ON DECEMBER 15TH ON WEBCT