

PS 128: Multiculturalism and Political Theory
Fall 2004

Instructor: Alisa Kessel, ask8@duke.edu
OH: MW 9:00-10:00 in The Perk,
and by appointment

MWF 10:20-11:10
Location: Carr 137

Course goals and description:

This course will focus on the relationship between individual cultural identity and the authority of the state. Tensions inevitably arise when individuals wish to pursue cultural practices that the state, for some legitimate or illegitimate reason, does not wish to permit. Our goal in this course is to analyze these tensions and determine under what circumstances the state can legitimately prohibit, alter, or allow cultural practices. Moreover, this raises the question of whether multiculturalism is good or bad for society.

The aim of the course is to allow students to develop some understanding of the political problems that arise when cultures come in tension with other cultures and/or with the state. We will do this in three steps. First, we will investigate several competing political theories in order to see how different theorists believe we can deal with the tension between cultural practices and state authority. Second, we will examine a few “case studies” which will allow us to apply the theories we have discussed to real world situations. Finally, after paying serious consideration to all of the theories we will study, students will be able to determine their own political position with respect to the appropriate relationship between cultural identity and state authority.

Course design:

Readings are to be completed on the Monday of the week for which they are assigned. Mondays and Wednesdays will typically be devoted to discussion of the assigned reading materials; Fridays will typically be devoted to activities that allow us to explore the difficult questions posed by the readings in a less formal way.

Ethical obligations: By registering for this course, you have agreed to abide by the Duke University Honor Code: <http://www.integrity.duke.edu/ugrad/honorcode.html>.

Books for purchase (available at The Regulator Bookshop on Ninth Street):

John Rawls: *The Law of Peoples and Other Essays*

Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*

Amy Gutmann, Ed.: *Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition*

Tyler Cowen: *Creative Destruction: How Globalization is Changing the World's Cultures*

Course requirements:

Participation and attendance:	10%
Group presentation:	10%
Weekly written assignments:	20%
Essay #1 (5-7 pages):	25%
Essay #2 (10-12 pages):	35%

Participation and attendance: One goal of this class is for us to learn from each other by discussing with each other the complex issues we encounter. Therefore, your attendance and participation is critical: you will not have successfully completed the course if you do not attend and participate. Please email me and let me know if you will not be able to attend class.

PLEASE NOTE: good participation is not just about speaking often. The substance of your comments and your ability to be respectful and open to the views of others are equally important parts of class participation.

Group presentation: There are five Fridays throughout the semester in which students are responsible for class. You will join in small groups (somewhere between 3-5 students each) and prepare and lead the class for that day. You will present on a case study of your choosing (one that's not covered on the syllabus already). You are not expected to assign additional reading materials, but you will have to do your own research to prepare and present to the class. You are encouraged to look beyond the course materials to find evidence in the world of the problems we analyze theoretically in class. You can lecture, hold a discussion, create an activity for the class to do, etc. You can rely on popular culture, theories we have not discussed in class, artwork, music, books, movies, articles, etc. In short, do what you want. This portion of your grade will be determined by your fellow students. We'll generate a grading rubric together on September 3 and we'll each use it to evaluate group presentations.

Weekly written assignments: For each week's readings, you will be required to answer a few questions designed to help you work out some of the more complex ideas you encounter and to get you thinking about your own reactions to the readings (no more than 2-3 single-spaced pages total). The questions are posted on Blackboard (in the "Assignments" folder). I will collect these assignments on five random Mondays throughout the semester (this means that each week, you should have completed your written assignment in time for class on Monday). Your answers will be evaluated for coherence, thoroughness, and thoughtfulness. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest grade and average the remaining four to determine that portion of your grade. PLEASE NOTE: You will turn in written assignments *on the Monday of the week for which the readings are assigned*. (For example, the questions for the readings of August 30 and September 1 will be due on August 30).

Essay #1: The first essay will be a 5-7 page paper, due on **October 15, 2004**. The topic will be assigned on **October 4, 2004**.

Essay #2: The second essay is a 10-12 page research paper, due at the end of the semester, on a topic of your choosing. The essay should describe a specific political problem that illustrates the tension between cultural traditions and the authority of the state. You will have to present arguments on both (or all) sides of the issue and then explain which side you find most compelling and why. A paper abstract will be due in class on **November 5, 2004**. The abstract should do 3 things: 1) briefly describe the political problem, 2) explain the general position of both (or all) sides of the problem, 3) list three to five sources that you will reference in researching this problem. The final paper will be due to me NO LATER THAN 5:00 pm on **December 6, 2004**.

Course schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to the course

August 23: Course intro and rule-setting

August 25: Defining terms

August 27: What is cultural identity?

Week 2: The concept of culture

August 30: Clifford Geertz: "The Impact of the Concept of Culture on the Concept of Man" (available on e-reserve)

September 1: Roland Barthes: "The World of Wrestling" (available on e-reserve)

September 3: Grading guidelines

Week 3: Identity and politics

September 6: Charles Taylor: “The Politics of Recognition” in *Multiculturalism*.

September 8: Brian Barry: “The Dynamics of Identity: Assimilation, Acculturation and Difference” (available on e-reserve); K. Anthony Appiah “Identity, Authenticity, Survival” in *Multiculturalism*.

September 10: Debate: assimilation, acculturation, or accommodation?

Week 4: Identity and politics (continued)

September 13: Iris Young, *Inclusion and Democracy*, selections (available on e-reserve)

September 15: William Connolly, “The Politics of Territorial Democracy” (available on e-reserve)

September 17: Group presentation #1

Week 5: Culture and the liberal state

September 20: John Rawls, “Public Reason Revisited” in *Law of Peoples*

September 22: Steven Rockefeller, “Comment” and Michael Walzer, “Comment”, both in *Multiculturalism*

September 24: Group presentation #2

Week 6: Culture and the liberal state (continued)

September 27: Will Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship*, selections (available on e-reserve)

September 29: Chandran Kukathas, “Are there any cultural rights?” (*Political Theory*, February 1992, available on JSTOR), Kukathas, “Liberalism and Multiculturalism: The Politics of Indifference” (*Political Theory*, October 1998, available on JSTOR)

October 1: Debate: Is the “right of exit” a viable, exercisable right?

Week 7: Case study #1: Education

October 4: *Mozert v. Hawkins County Board of Education* (827 F.2d 1058; 1987 U.S. App., opinion by Lively; available on Lexis Nexis: NOTE: search in “Court of Appeals”), Susan Wolf, “Comment” in *Multiculturalism*, **distribute paper topics for ESSAY #1**

October 6: Stephen Macedo “Liberal Civic Education and Religious Fundamentalism: The Case of God v. John Rawls?” (*Ethics*, April 1995, available on JSTOR); Nomi Maya Stolzenberg “He drew a circle that shut me out’: Assimilation, Indoctrination, and the Paradox of a Liberal Education.” (*Harvard LR*, January 1993, available on LexisNexis).

October 8: Debate: Was *Mozert* rightly decided?

Week 8: Globalization, multiculturalism, and cosmopolitanism

October 11: FALL BREAK (no written assignment due this week)

October 13: Benjamin Barber “Jihad v. McWorld” (*The Atlantic Monthly*, March 1992, available on Proquest), Samuel Huntington “The Clash of Civilizations” (*Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993, available on Proquest).

October 15: ESSAY #1 DUE

Week 9: Globalization, multiculturalism, and cosmopolitanism (continued)

October 18: Catharine Lu, “The One and Many Faces of Cosmopolitanism” (*The Journal of Political Philosophy*, June 2000, available on Synergy)

October 20: Nussbaum et al, *For Love of Country: Debating the Limits of Patriotism*, selections (available on e-reserve)

October 22: Group presentation #3

Week 10: Globalization, multiculturalism, and cosmopolitanism (continued)

October 25: Tyler Cowen, *Creative Destruction: How Globalization is Changing the World's Cultures*

October 27: Cowen continued

October 29: Debate: Is globalization good or bad (For culture? Democracy? Peace?)

Week 11: A break from political theory

November 1: Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*

November 3: *Things Fall Apart*, continued

November 5: Research paper abstract due in class.

Small group activity: final paper topic disclosure and discussion

Week 12: Case study #2: Latino Immigration

November 8: Samuel P. Huntington, "The Hispanic Challenge" (*Foreign Policy*, March-April 2004, available on Expanded Academic ASAP); Francis Fukuyama, "Identity Crisis: Why We Shouldn't Worry about Mexican Immigration" (online at <http://slate.msn.com/id/2101756>)

November 10: Alan Wolfe "Native Son: Samuel Huntington Defends the Homeland" (*Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2004, available on www.foreignaffairs.com); "Huntington and Hispanics" (*Foreign Policy*, May/June 2004, available on Proquest), Linda Chavez, "Toward a New Politics of Hispanic Assimilation" (available on e-reserve)

November 12: Group presentation #4

Week 13: Case study #2 continued . . .

November 15: Romand Coles, "Traditio: Feminists of Color and the Torn Virtues of Democratic Engagement" (*Political Theory*, August 2001, available on e-reserve)

November 17: David Hayes-Bautista and Gregory Rodriguez, "Latinos are Redefining Notions of Racial Identity" (*LA Times*, January 13, 1993, available on Proquest), Hayes-Bautista, "On Being Latino: As American as a Texan" (*LA Times*, March 28, 1999, available on Proquest), "Inventing Latinismo: The Creation of 'Hispanic' Panethnicity in the United States" (*The Journal of American Folklore*, Winter 1991, available on JSTOR), Silvio Torres-Saillant, "Inventing the Race: Latinos and the Ethnoracial Pentagon" (*Latino Studies*, March 2003, available on Proquest)

November 19: Guest speaker: Victoria DeFrancesco

Week 14: Case Study #3: The "Culture War"

November 22: J.D. Hunter, *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America*, selections (available on e-reserve), Robert Bork, "Coercing Virtue" (*Review—Institute of Public Affairs*, September 2003, available on Proquest), Morris Fiorina, "What Culture Wars?" (*Wall Street Journal*, July 14, 2004, available on Proquest)

November 24: NO CLASS

Week 15: Case study #3 continued . . .

November 29: *Lawrence v. Texas* (539 U.S. 558, all opinions, available on LexisNexis, NOTE: search in "Supreme Court Cases")

December 1: Group presentation #5

Papers due to me in my mailbox in Perkins 317A or via email NO LATER THAN (meaning: I'm collecting my mail at and/or the time-stamp on your email better not be one minute later than) 5:00 pm on **Monday, December 6, 2004.**