

Political Science 597.02  
Problems of the Contemporary World  
Culture, Identity and Politics  
Spring 2006  
T R 5:30-7:18  
ML 0185

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**Course Description:**

How do values, beliefs and group identities influence politics? What is the relationship between economic structure, cultural norms and political regimes? How can states accommodate diverse cultural, religious, racial or ethnic groups in their societies? The aim of this course is to make students familiar with the major debates surrounding these questions by reviewing a wide range of topics. The readings and class discussions will deal with both theoretical ideas (ideals) and studies of real world examples. Throughout the course we will specifically focus on (1) the relationship between modernity and cultural change, (2) the formation of national identities, (3) the interaction between religion and politics with an emphasis on the Muslim world, (4) the politics of race in the United States, (5) the relationship between gender and politics, and (6) the models of democratic accommodation in multicultural societies.

No prior knowledge about these topics is required. What is required is the spirit to learn and engage in class discussion. Each student should read the assignments before coming to class, form his/her own opinion on the issues and respond constructively to others' comments.

**Capstone Experiences\***

**Goals:**

Thematic upper-division course work, drawing upon multiple disciplines, enriches students' experiences of the contemporary world.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.
2. Students write about or conduct research on the contemporary world.

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\* This language is required by the university

## Course Requirements:

**1) Class presentation:** Each student is expected to prepare one class presentation throughout the quarter. For the presentation you need to summarize the author's main arguments. This does not mean that you tell us word by word what the author has written. Rather try to explain the author's argument in your own words. Then you need to relate the author's arguments to the main topics of the class and to other articles we have discussed in class. Lastly, you need to critique the presented material and explain what you find (un)convincing in the article. At the end of the presentation the student is expected to answer the questions asked by the class and the instructor. For the presentation you are also expected to prepare A CLASS HANDOUT to be distributed in class. The handout should be sent to the instructor via e-mail no later than the night before the class. The handout should be an outline of your presentation. The quality of your class presentation will count for 15 percent of your final grade.

**2) Reaction papers:** Throughout the quarter each student is expected to submit two reaction papers on two different topics (you cannot submit a reaction paper for the class you make your presentation). The paper needs to be 2-3 pages long, double-spaced, and size 12 font (Times New Roman). The reaction paper should summarize the main argument and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the article(s) or book chapter(s). The paper must be E-MAILED as an attachment to the instructor no later than by noon of the same day we will have class. Each student has to make sure that the paper is received by the instructor on time. Hence, the reaction papers should be submitted BEFORE we discuss the materials and late submissions will NOT be accepted. The two reaction papers will count for 20 percent of your final grade.

**3) Quizzes:** To get most out of this class students should read the assignments before the class sessions. To help the students to do that, there will be given three *unannounced quizzes* throughout the quarter. The two best quiz results will count for 10 percent of your final grade (5 percent each). The quizzes will be given in the beginning of the class session. So, if you are late or cannot attend the class, you will not get any credit for the quiz.

**4) Exams:** There will be one midterm exam that will count for 25 percent of your final grade and one final exam that will count for 30 percent of your final grade. Both exams are in-class essay-style examinations. Make-up exams will only be given if you have been ill and obtain a statement from your doctor.

**Note:** This class is heavily based on discussion, so your contribution to the class discussions is very important and highly encouraged. Sustained and effective participation in class will be rewarded with an increase of one level in your final grade, for example from C to C+ or B- to B.

**Grading components:**

Class presentation	15 %
2 Reaction papers	20 %
Unannounced quizzes (best 2 out of 3)	10 %
Midterm exam	25 %
Final exam	30 %

**Course Materials:**

1. In order to minimize your expenses, I have provided web links to several class readings that are available online.

2. Many of the readings for this course are available on electronic reserve, through the Main Library. See the instructions below for accessing electronic reserve. In addition, hard copies of e-reserve readings are available through the reserve desk at the Main Library.

3. The following book is on sale at SBX and on reserve at the Main Library:

Amin Maalouf, "In the Name of Identity: Violence and the Need to Belong" Penguin Books

**Accessing the E-reserves**

First go to OSU Libraries main web page at - <http://library.osu.edu/>. If you are connecting from OFF-CAMPUS, you must first SIGN IN as an off-campus user. On the OSU Libraries main web page look for the OFF-CAMPUS SIGN IN button at the top of the page and sign in using your OSU username and password. Once you are signed in

1. Click on FIND on the menu bar (on the library web page).
2. scroll down to FIND RESERVES-BY PROF, and then enter "sarfaty"
3. Find the Electronic Reserve listing for the course.
4. Click on the listing for the course.
5. On the course page - materials are listed by author/title or title.
6. Click on the article/item you wish to view/print.
7. Enter your name (first name only is sufficient) and university ID number, then click on SUBMIT.
8. If you have any problems accessing Electronic Reserve items, please contact me or the E-reserves by phone: (614) 292-6448 or by e-mail: [liberes@osu.edu](mailto:liberes@osu.edu)

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. I can assign additional articles or change some of the assigned readings with prior notice.

**Academic Misconduct:**

All of the work you do in the course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's ideas or words without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to the university policy and reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct. For more on university policy, see <http://www.osu.edu/offices/oa/procedures>.

**Students with disabilities should make their needs known to me and seek available assistance during the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see me or contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall 292-2880.**

**Schedule of the Class Meetings**

[E] = Article or book excerpt, available through electronic reserve and 2-hour reserve at the Main Library

[B] = Book, on sale at SBX, and on 24-hour reserve at the Main Library

**I. Introduction**

Tuesday, March 28

Introduction and overview of the class

**II. Modernity and culture**

Thursday, March 30

*Early modernization theorists and the promise of modernity*

Daniel Lerner, "The Grocer and the Chief: A Parable" pp. 19-75 [E]

Tuesday, April 4

*Critical views on modern society: The Marxist school*

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Man as a Productive Being" in *German Ideology* pp. 26-28; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Ruling Ideas and Ruling Classes" pp.191-192; Karl Marx, "Base and Superstructure" in *Preface and Introduction to A Critique of Political Economy* p.193; Friedrich Engels, "Letter to Joseph Bloch"; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Class Antagonism and Political Ideas" in *Communist Manifesto* [E]

Hebert Marcuse, "One Dimensional Man" pp. 279-285 [E]

Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky, “ Manufacturing Consent” pp. 163-170 [E]

Thursday, April 6

*Value change in the postindustrial world*

Ronald Inglehart, “ Modern and Postmodern Values” International Social Science Journal  
“Changing Values, Economic Development and Political Change” no. 145, pp.379-403  
[E]

Amin Maalouf, “In the Name of Identity” pp. 94-127 [B]

### **III. Nationalism**

Tuesday, April 11

Amin Maalouf, “In the Name of Identity” pp.1-36 [B]

Ernest Gellner, “What is a nation?” pp.53-62 [E]

Connor Walker, “Man is a [N]ational Animal” pp.195-209 [E]

Benedict Anderson, “Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of  
Nationalism”, Introduction, pp. 1-8 [E]

### **IV. Politics and Religion**

Thursday, April 13

*Clash of civilizations?*

Samuel Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations” Foreign Affairs 72, 3, pp. 22-49 [E]

Lisa Wedeen, “Beyond the Crusades” pp.267-272 [E]

Pipa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, “Islam & the West: Testing the Clash of Civilizations  
Thesis” pp. 1-30 [E]  
(also available at [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=316506](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=316506))

Tuesday, April 18

*Muslim world and democracy*

Carl Brown, “Setting the Stage: Islam and Muslims” pp.7-18 [E]

Fareed Zakaria, “Islam, Democracy and Constitutional Liberalism” Political Science Quarterly vol. 119, no. 1, pp. 1-20 [E]

Graham E. Fuller, “Islamists in the Arab World: The Dance Around Democracy” Carnegie papers, pp. 3-15 [E]

Thursday, April 20

*Ascendance of Political Religion*

Nikkie Keddie, “New Religious Politics: Why, When, and How do Fundamentalisms Appear?” pp.696-723 [E]

Amin Maalouf, “Modernity and ‘the Other’” pp.47-94 [B]

Carl Brown, “Return of the Islam?” pp.123-133 [E]

Recommended: Anthony Gill “Religion and Comparative Politics” Annual Review of Political Science 2001 4: 117-138 [E]

Tuesday, April 25

*Case studies: Islamic Social Movements*

*Egypt:* Carrie Rosefsky Wickham, “Interests, Ideas, and Islamist Outreach in Egypt” in Wiktorowicz (ed.), Islamic Activism, pp. 231-249 [E]

*Turkey:* TBA

Thursday, April 27

*Case studies: Religion and State*

*Israel:* Alan Dowty, “Religion and Politics” pp. 154-183 [E]

*Iran:* Ladan Boroumand and Royan Boroumand, “Reform at an impasse” Journal of Democracy volume 11, No. 4, October 2002, pp. 114-128 [E]

Daniel Brumberg, “A Comparativist’s Perspective” Journal of Democracy volume 11, No. 4, October 2000, pp. 129-134 [E]

Tuesday, May 2

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## **V. Racial Politics**

Thursday, May 4

*Affirmative Action*

Film: “Affirmative Action or Reverse Discrimination”

Stanley Fish, “Affirmative Action is Still Necessary” pp.554-559 [E]

Richard Kahlenberg, “Class, Not Race” pp. 564-568 [E]

CNN Article “Narrow use of affirmative action preserved in college admissions”

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/LAW/06/23/scotus.affirmative.action/>

Tuesday, May 9

*Structural racism*

Guest Lecturer: Hiram Irizarry-Osorio

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, “Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation”

*American Sociological Review*, Vol 62, No. 3 (Jun., 1997) pp. 465-480 [E]

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, “Racial Attitudes or Racial Ideology? An alternative paradigm for examining actors’ racial views” *Journal of Political Ideologies* (2003), 8(1), pp. 63-82

[E]

Thursday, May 11

Kinder and Sanders, “The Racial Divide in Public Opinion” in *Divided by Color* pp. 12-34

Movie: *Crash*

Tuesday, May 16

*History of racial discourse in the United States*

Guest Lecturer: Philip Mazzocco

James W. Loewen, “The Nadir: Incubator of Sundown Towns” in *Sundown Towns* pp.24-44 [E]

Kinder and Sanders, “Subtle Prejudice for Modern Times” in *Divided by Color* pp. 92-127 [E]

## **VI. Feminism**

### Thursday, May 18

Carol Gilligan, “In a Different Voice” pp. 44-48 [E]

Susan Moller Okin, “Justice, Gender and the Family” pp. 3-24 [E]

The Economist, “The conundrum of the glass ceiling - Women in business” [E]

### Tuesday, May 23

Marilyn Frye, “Oppression” pp. 373-380 [E]

Film: “Killing me softly III”

## **VII. Identity and Democratic Citizenship**

### Thursday, May 25

*Different models of democracy in multicultural societies*

Sammy Smoha, “Types of democracy and modes of conflict management in ethnically divided societies” *Nations and Nationalism* 8 (4), 2002 pp.423-431 [E]

Arendt Lijphart, “Consociational Democracy” *World Politics* Vol. 21, No. 2 (Jan., 1969) pp. 207-225 [E]

Amin Maalouf, “In the Name of Identity”, pp. 37-43, and pp. 143-150 [B]

### Tuesday, May 30

*Democracy with an emphasis on recognition of difference*

Iris Marion Young, “Polity and Group Difference: A Critique of the Ideal of Universal Citizenship”, *Ethics*, Vol. 99, No. 2 (Jan., 1989), 250-274 [E]

### Thursday, June 1

*Problems with politics of recognition*

Stuart Jeffries, “If only we were more like the French”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/religion/Story/0,2763,1402315,00.html>

Ayelet Shachar, “On Citizenship and Multicultural Vulnerability”, *Political Theory*, Vol.28, No.1 (Feb., 2000), 64-89 [E]

Kiss, Elizabeth, “Democracy and the politics of recognition” in Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker (ed.), *Democracy’s Edges*, pp. 193-209 [E]