CULTURE AND POLITICS FALL 2008 CULP 044:
Intro to Culture and Politics: Social Sciences

Professor Rochelle Davis
Thursday, 2:15-4:05, ICC 214
Office: ICC 147, tel: 687-0351
rad39@georgetown.edu
Office hours: Wednesday, 11-1

This course introduces students to the basic conceptual questions which constitute the Culture and Politics Major’s intellectual identity. The course is designed to be broadly comparative by reading socio-cultural and political theory and emphasizing critical engagement with various disciplinary methodologies and sources. One goal of the course is to introduce students to various approaches to the systematic and comparative study of political and cultural institutions and practices. To this end, major theoretical texts will be placed in historical contexts and read alongside applications of those theories as they appear in a variety of scholarly texts of social analysis. A second goal of the course is to familiarize students with related but often opposing views on the interaction of culture and power. The intent is to provide students with a sound understanding of theory and with an appreciation of the complexity of the field as a precondition for a learned debate.

Requirements

1) Weekly Assignments, Attendance, and Discussions: Each week I will send out an assignment for class that is based on the readings. They may be written assignments or presentations. You are expected to turn the written assignments to me via email by 9am on Thursday morning. Late responses will not be counted. The assignments will vary and may be used during class time. Be prepared to be called on. These will be graded, and around mid-semester I will give you feedback on your participation and assignments. Each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by one-third of a grade. (30% of your grade)

2) Oral Report: Each week one students will introduce the required reading with a ten minute oral briefing. Details provided in a separate handout. (10% of your grade)

3) Essays: You write three essays of about 6-7 pages on the major topics covered in the seminar (each essay 20% of your grade). Details will be provided on a handout for each paper. Failure to complete any of these requirements will result in failure of the entire course.

Readings

One full book is required reading for the course:


The remaining readings will be available via Blackboard for the class.
Expectations and Responsibilities:
I expect you to do all of the reading, to participate actively in the class, to be polite and courteous to me and to your fellow students, and to be intelligent, motivated, and engaged.

Both you and I are bound by the Georgetown Honor Pledge.

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and To conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/hc/site_map.html#The_Honor_System

We both are protected by and enjoy principles of academic freedom.

From the Faculty Handbook: http://www.georgetown.edu/facultysenate/FacHbk.pdf (p 26)

Academic freedom is essential to teaching and research. Such freedom requires free inquiry, free expression, intellectual honesty, respect for the academic rights of others, and openness to change. The rights and responsibilities exercised within the academic community must be compatible with these requirements. All members of the faculty, in common with all other members of the community, share the responsibility for maintaining a professional atmosphere in which violations of academic freedom and responsibility are unlikely to occur. The University endorses the American Association of University Professors’ 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, with clarifications that place it in the Georgetown University context (see Section XXI).

:: CLASS SCHEDULE ::

August 28
Introduction

Part 1: :: Labor, Economics, and Property ::

September 4 :: Competing Theories of Property and Labor ::
John Locke, “Of property” from The Second Treatise of Civil Government (1690)
Karl Marx, Selections from:
Marx and Engels. Selections from “The German Ideology”
“The so-called primitive accumulation,” from Capital I, pp. 431-438.
“Estranged labor,” pp. 70-93

September 11 :: Economic Action ::

September 18 :: Of Economics and Experts ::

September 25 :: Discussion of Theories of Labor, Economics, & Property ::

Woody Guthrie, lyrics to “This Land is Your Land”

Film in class: Organizing America: A History of Trade Unions in the U.S. (40 minutes)

PART 2: :: Narratives of Nation and Identity ::

October 2 :: Nations and Nationalism ::


Ernest Renan, “What is a nation?” (1882) Reprinted in Nation and Narration, Edited by Homi Bhabha (Routledge, 1990), pp. 8-22.


October 9 :: Ethnicity, Race & Nationalism: Inclusions & Exclusions ::


October 16 :: Identity ::


October 23 :: Discussion of Nationalism and Identity ::

Film and discussion in class – Rabbit Proof Fence
PART 3: :: Power, Culture, Knowledge ::

October 30 :: Culture ::


(See next page)


November 6 :: Power ::


November 13 :: Power & Resistance ::


Selections from Steven Biko and Malcolm X.


November 20 :: Knowledge & Culture ::


Edward Said, The myth of the clash of civilizations: Professor Edward Said in lecture. (DVD 554)


November 27 No class

December 4 :: Conclusion ::

Readings TBD
December 16 (Final Exam Time) 11 am. Paper #3 Due via email and hard copy to 241 ICC Bldg (Center for Contemporary Arab Studies)