

Political Science 428
Topics in Politics: Politics & Identity
Monday & Wednesday 11:30-1:00
A. Darnell, 2013

The Class: In this course we examine the politics of identity within groups and relationship between identity and political engagement. The class is divided roughly into two parts. The first focuses on the politics of identity within groups. We look at the LGBT community and indigenous peoples as prime examples and discuss the principles observed with these populations in relation to other identity based groups in the US. The second part looks at range of theoretical orientations to identity and nation building, violence, and globalization in a comparative perspective. In this segment we read some of the recent thinking on identity and then follow them with readings on related empirical cases and issues.

Grading: This is a WI Course. Grades in this class will be based on six one page essays (30%) and one research paper. Papers will be graded on substance, quality of argument, and composition. Topics will be assigned for the research paper, but I am open to suggestions or development of your own idea.

The one page essays are designed to provide a summary statement on the argument, substance, and quality of a particular reading. They can and should be rewritten if you are not satisfied with your grade. Each essay should be in a font size of 12 and with a spacing of 1.5 lines. Essays will be penalized for being longer. **You must complete and turn in your essay the day the reading is due. You must complete 3 essays by the end of week seven.** The remaining essays are due no later than the end of the 14th week. for a reading Each essay should address:

1. Identify the basic argument or theories advanced by the reading. Identify specific hypotheses presented (if such things are offered) and how well they relate to the overall argument.
2. Identify the research method employed (is it quantitative, narrative, etc.) they use to support their argument. If they use data, statistical techniques, documents, identify them.
3. Lastly, *briefly* identify what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the reading.

The final paper should be approximately twenty double spaced pages. You will write it in three stages, revising each previous stage with the new component. It will consist of (1) an introduction laying out the problem or issue you are going to write about, explaining why it is an interesting issue to investigate from the point of how *other scholars* have approached the question/issue (3-4 pages); (2) a review of previous discussions, analyses of the issue under question (8-10 pages); (3) a critical discussion of the how you view the issues in relation to the existing literatures discussed in Part 2 (5 pages), plus a brief conclusion (1-2 pages). **This paper will be due on the day the final exam is scheduled and must be submitted to me by e-mail.**

Required Books:

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. Verso; New Edition (November 17, 2006)
- Hebdige, Dick. *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*. Routledge; New Ed edition (1979)
- Nussbaum, Martha. *The Clash Within*. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press (January 15, 2009) .
- Sen,, Amartya. *Identity and Violence*. W. W. Norton & Company; Edition, 2007.

Approximate Schedule for the Semester

Week 1: Jan 14-16

Mon: Introduction

Wed: Sanders: "Ethnic Boundaries and Identity in Plural Societies." On ARes.

Week 2: Jan 21-23: Politics OF Identity and Authenticity among LGBT and Indigenous Peoples.

Mon: Martin Luther King Day – No Class

Wed: Schilt & Westbrook: "Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity"

Week 3: Jan 28-30 Politics OF Identity and Authenticity

Mon: Brewis & Jack: "Consuming Chavs: The Ambiguous Politics of Gay Chavenism." On ARes.

Wed: Searles: "Placing Identity: Town, Land, and Authenticity in Nunavut, Canada." On ARes

Week 4: Feb 4-6: Politics OF Identity and Authenticity, continued

Mon: Madsen: "Contemporary Discourses on 'Indianness'." On ARes.

Wed: An Interlude on writing. Reading to be assigned.

Week 5: Feb 11-13: Politics AND Identity: The Making of National Identity

Mon: Anderson: *Imagined Communities*, Chapters 1-3, 6

Wed: Anderson: *Imagined Communities*, Chapters 8-11

Week 6: Feb 18-20: Politics AND Identity: The U.S. Case

Mon: Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?*, Chapters 1-3. On ARes.

Wed: Higham, John. "Strangers in the Land: Nativism and Nationalism" + reading on immigration (to be determined).

Week 7: February 25-27: Politics AND Identity: South Africa

Mon: Neocosmos, Michael, Excerpt: "From 'Foreign Natives' to 'Native Foreigners': Explaining Xenophobia in Post-apartheid South Africa." On ARes.

Wed: Catch-up and Assignment due on final papers

Friday: Deadline for having completed 3 of 6 short essays

Week 8: March 4-6 Politics & Identity: Indigenous Peoples

Mon: Perry, "The Logic of the Modern Nation-State and Legal Construction of Native American Tribal Identity." On ARes.

Wed: Reading to be assigned.

Week 9: March 11-13

SPRING BREAK

Week 10: March 18-20

Mon: Hebdige, Part 1.
Wed: Hebdige, Part 2.

Week 11: March 25-27

Mon: Urban Identities and the politics of culture and money.
Wed: Counter Culture Movements

Week 12: April 5-7

Mon: Nussbaum, *The Clash Within*, pp. 1-122
Wed: Nussbaum, *The Clash Within*, pp. 122-211
Friday: Part 2 of Final Paper due.

Week 13: April 8-10

Mon: Nussbaum, *The Clash Within*, pp. 302-339
Wed: Tutorials
Thursday & Friday: Tutorials Continued

Week 14: April 15-17—Identity and Violence

Mon: Sen, *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*, Pp. 1-84
Wed: Sen, *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny.* " Pp. 84-120 & 149-170.
Friday: Last 3 short essays must be completed.

Week 15: April 22-24

Mon:
Wed:Tutorials
Thur-Friday: Tutorials continued