

Eötvös Loránd University
Faculty of Social Science
Department of International and European Studies

Fall 2019

Multiculturalism and Pluralism

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Room 3101A
office hours: Tuesday, 10:00 - 14:00

regular class time: Wednesday, 16:00 - 18:00
room: Kémia épület 160

This course will introduce the student to contemporary debates in social science, political theory and philosophy that pertain to pluralist societies. We will focus on theories centred on liberalism, pluralism, multiculturalism and communitarianism. These arguments will be applied to in-depth discussion of party platforms and behavior, prospects for European integration or disintegration, public discourse and effects on democratic development.

The course will consist of three main phases. In the first we will delve into how the idea of unitary and homogenous societies emerged through nationalism. We will use these discussions to ground our debates in the second phase, which will consist of an exploration of the positions of groups that have not been included in national unity projects, and how to handle such dilemmas. In the third phase we will tie our course together by examining communitarian and libertarian debates on how to manage diversity and pluralism in contemporary societies.

It is imperative that students be prepared to participate in seminar sessions by carefully reading the assigned materials. As such, the participation component of the grade will entail not only attendance and general participation, but mastery of the readings. All students will be able to choose an aspect of the debates not covered in depth in the course and lead a presentation/discussion on it. These aspects might include: women's rights, the situation of children, the role of the international community in Syria, demographics and employment, etc. The course will also have students write two papers, the content of which will be determined in accordance with the direction of seminar discussions.

Learning objectives:

The course will help students develop reading, critical and analytical skills, while writing and presentation components—with the support of the professor—will help develop communication and deliberative skills. By the end of the course we should all have made progress on developing our idea of a good society—and how to achieve it—given challenges in our contemporary global environment.

Grades:

The course requirements reflect the composition of the final grade.

Students will be graded on the following:

- i) Participation: Students must attend each session and to the best of his/her ability participate in our joint discussions. I will pay particular attention to level of preparation for each seminar meeting.
- ii) Presentation: Each student will choose an aspect of the politics of pluralism and give a presentation to the seminar group of 15-20 minutes. We will discuss topics in the first class. Students may choose to present the policies of a given country, party or institution, a refugee or migration wave in the past, a specific event, etc. I am happy to help everyone with structure and presentation approaches.
- iii) The mid-term paper will be due on **October 16, 2019**. I will assign an essay question by the third week of class. Anyone needing consultation on writing should contact me.
- iv) The final paper will be due on **December 11, 2019**. It may be a continuation of the mid-term paper or based on a topic we will collectively identify by Week 11.

The final grade will be calculated with the following weightings:

Participation: 25%

Presentation: 20%

Mid-term paper: 25%

Final paper: 30%

Course Schedule:

1

September 11

Introduction, basic terms

no reading assigned

2

September 18

Homogeneity, nationalism

Hroch, M. (1996). From National Movement to the Fully-Formed Nation. In G.

Balakrishna, *Mapping the Nation* (pp. 78-97). London: Verso.

3

September 25

Homogenization and modernization

Gellner, E. (1996). The Coming of Nationalism and Its Interpretation: The Myths of Nation and Class. In G. Balakrishna, *Mapping the Nation* (pp. 98-145). London: Verso.

4

October 2

Construction of unity

Anderson, B. R. O. G. (1991). *Imagined communities: Reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism*. London: Verso.

5

October 9

Minorities and their demands

Mikesell, Marvin W., Murphy, Alexander B. (1991). A Framework for Comparative Study of Minority-Group Aspirations. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 81, No. 4 (Dec., 1991), 581-604.

6

October 16

Minority rights

Sigler, J. A. (1983). Minority rights: A comparative analysis. Westport, Conn. u.a.: Greenwood Pr. excerpts

7

November 6

Multiculturalism

Kymlicka, Will. *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995. Chs 1-3.

8

November 13

Multiculturalism and unity

Kymlicka, Will. *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995. Chs 4-6.

9

November 20

Multiculturalism and rights

Kymlicka, Will. *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995. Chs 7-9.

10

November 27

Reconciling liberalism, nationalism and multiculturalism

Tamir, Y. (1995). *Liberal nationalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press.

11

December 4

A liberal critique

Barry, B. 2001: Culture and Equality (Cambridge: Polity)

12

December 11

The deliberative approach

Benhabib, S. (2002). *The claims of culture: Equality and diversity in the global era.* Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.