

## **National Identity and Multiculturalism (HOPR 010, Section 1703H)**

**Fall 2003; W 5:00-6:15 p.m.**

**LL222**

**Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00; MW 1:00-3:00**

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The course will examine two of the most important—and in the United States, particularly contentious—topics in the world today: national identity and multiculturalism. These topics are not only crucial to the United States, but their intersection also offers you the opportunity to consider rival views on identity, culture, and individual and group rights. The course will begin with a brief overview of the main schools of thought about national identity (constructivism, primordialism, perennialism, and modernism). There will be a particular focus on the tension between primordialism (with its emphasis on national identity differences as “natural”) and constructivism (the idea that identity is socially constructed).

We will then discuss the concepts of multiculturalism and diversity, and different ideas about what these terms mean in theory and practice. This section of the course will include a discussion of the tension between group rights and individual rights, and the difficulty that the intersection of diversity and intolerance poses for political and cultural rights. Specifically, the course discussions will encourage you to reflect on the way in which the use of individual rights as a means to protect minority groups and their cultures (the traditional American approach) breaks down in practice when people are seen first and foremost as members of groups. At the same time, it will ask you to consider how the application of group



**WEEK 9 (October 22): Diversity and Multiculturalism in the United States, Part II.**

*Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground*, chapters 4 and 6.

*Interracial America*, chapter 1.

\*Schuck, Peter. *Diversity in America: Keeping Government at a Safe Distance* (Belknap/Harvard University Press, 2003), chapter 5 (“Affirmative Action: Defining and Certifying Diversity”), pp. 134-150 and 186-202 only.

**WEEK 10 (October 29): National Identity and Multiculturalism in Canada.**

\*Mackey, Eva. *The House of Difference: Cultural Politics and National Identity in Canada* (London: Routledge, 1999), chapter 1 (“Introduction: Unsettling Differences: Origins, Methods, Frameworks,” pp. 1-22) and chapter 3 (“Managing the House of Difference: Official Multiculturalism,” pp. 50-70).

**WEEK 11 (November 5): Comparing the United States and Canada.**

\*Schmidt, Ronald. “The Politics of Language in Canada and the United States: Explaining the Differences,” in T. Ricento and B. Burnaby, eds., *Language and Politics in the United States and Canada* (Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 1998), pp. 37-70.

\*Griffin, Ben. “Unhyphenated Canadians and Americans,” *Interracial Voice*, available at: <http://interracialvoice.com/griffin2.html>.

**WEEK 12 (November 12): National Identity versus Multiculturalism or a Multicultural National Identity?**

\*Schlesinger, Arthur. *The Disuniting of America: Reflections on a Multicultural Society* (WW Norton, 1998), chapter 5 (“E Pluribus Unum?”), pp. 125-147.

\*Kymlicka, Will. *Liberalism, Community and Culture* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1991), chapter 9 (“Equality for Minority Cultures”), pp. 182-205.

**Assignment #2 (to be turned in on November 19):** In two pages (double-spaced) answer the following question: How can we solve the dilemma between, on the one hand, the need to protect individuals in a multicultural society from discrimination when they are seen first and foremost as members of groups and, on the other hand, the tendency for group rights policies to reinforce seeing each other as members of groups? In your answer consider the arguments we have