

PHIL 216: PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Winter 2018
TR 2:00—3:50
CRN 25454
Classroom: Condon 360

Instructor: Larry Busk
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Susan Campbell Hall 161
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00-1:50

Course description: “Cultural diversity” is a relatively new idea. Where did it come from and why did it emerge? Why is there controversy surrounding the term and its use? Why does the University of Oregon, like most universities today, maintain an official “commitment” to diversity (<http://inclusion.uoregon.edu/>)? What does a philosophical reflection on cultural diversity let us see? What does it prevent us from seeing? In this course we will attempt to answer these and other related questions. We will read “classics” from the field of cultural studies alongside historically marginalized theoretical voices. We will read the proponents of cultural diversity as well as its detractors. We will also attempt to connect longstanding debates about cultural diversity to the political landscape of 2018.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class each day having done the assigned reading (see schedule below) and ready to discuss it. Comments and questions should always be respectful; hateful or offensive remarks will not be tolerated. Always raise your hand to speak. Cell phones (and etc.) should not be seen; laptops should be silent.

All assignments should be turned in on time. Late work will not be accepted (excepting cases of emergency or otherwise reasonable excuse). If you are having a difficult time with the material, please let me know.

Attendance and participation is an important of this (as of any) course. This does not necessarily mean constant talking. It means carefully observing the expectations outlined above and taking an active interest both in the material and in your progress in the course.

Academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) is strictly prohibited and may result in severe penalties, including a failing grade for the course. Definitions, procedures, and penalties for such cases are spelled out on the UO website for academic dishonesty.

If you require an accommodation of any kind, please let me know as soon as possible.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- This course enables students to engage in the critical reflection central to the discipline of philosophy about, in, and through one of its major subfields.
- Students should expect to develop an enhanced capacity for intelligent reflection on a range of central issues that have been the subject of considerable philosophical examination.

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Reflections:** Twice during the term, you will turn in a 2-3 page reflection that (a) provides a brief interpretation of a given text and (b) responds to it in a critical way. You may choose any reading from the previous weeks' assignments that interests you. What is essential here is that you engage with the author's ideas by first briefly summarizing them and then by providing your own perspective.
- **Final Essay:** during **finals week**, you will turn in a 5-7 page final version of your final essay.

GRADING CRITERIA (from the UO Philosophy Dept.)

A = No mistakes, well-written, well-researched, and distinctive in some way or other

B = No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way

C = Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material

D = Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material

F = Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or complete lack of effort

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

- Reflections - %40 (2@20% each)
- Final Essay - %40
- Attendance and Participation - %20

COURSE MATERIALS

- A *Course Packet* available at the Duck store is the only required purchase for this course.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

<p>WEEK 1: Introduction to the Course</p> <p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Introduction: What is philosophy? What is culture? What is diversity?</p> <p>Read: UO College of Arts and Sciences diversity commitment: https://cas.uoregon.edu/diversity/</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Kwame Anthony Appiah, from <i>Cosmopolitanism</i> (~25pp)</p>
<p>WEEK 2: Theoretical Foundations (I)</p> <p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Claude Levi-Strauss, from <i>Structural Anthropology</i> (~10pp)</p> <p>Clifford Geertz, from <i>The Interpretation of Cultures</i> (~15pp)</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Edward Said, from <i>Orientalism</i> (~20pp)</p>
<p>WEEK 3: Theoretical Foundations (II)</p> <p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Linda Martín Alcoff, from <i>The Future of Whiteness</i> (~22pp)</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Winona LaDuke, “Who Owns America?” and “Don’t Cheapen Sovereignty” (from <i>The Winona LaDuke Reader</i> (~25pp)</p>
<p>WEEK 4: Culture Wars and Grand Narratives</p> <p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Harold Bloom, excerpt from <i>The Western Canon</i> (~10pp.)</p> <p>Ward Churchill, “White Studies: The Intellectual Imperialism of U.S. Higher Education” (~12pp)</p> <p>**FIRST REFLECTION DUE**</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Francis Fukuyama, from <i>The End of History</i> (~7pp)</p> <p>Arundhati Roy, from <i>Capitalism: A Ghost Story</i> (~20pp)</p>
<p>WEEK 5: Friends and Enemies?</p> <p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Carl Schmitt, from <i>The Concept of the Political</i> (~25pp)</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Samuel P. Huntington, from <i>The Clash of Civilizations</i> (~10pp)</p> <p>In class: <i>The Power of Nightmares</i>, part 1 (BBC documentary, 2004)</p>
<p>WEEK 6: Cultural Appropriation</p> <p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Jessica Andrews, “Cultural Appropriation at Halloween: My Culture Is Not a Costume” (https://www.teenvogue.com/story/cultural-appropriation-halloween-costume-video)</p>

	<p>Kenan Malik, “In Defense of Cultural Appropriation” https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/14/opinion/in-defense-of-cultural-appropriation.html</p> <p>K. Tempest Bradford, “Cultural Appropriation Is, In Fact, Indefensible” http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/06/28/533818685/cultural-appropriation-is-in-fact-indefensible</p>
Thursday	Anne DuCille, “Toy Theory: Black Barbie and the Deep Play of Difference” (~13pp)
WEEK 7: The Feminist Dimension Tuesday	Susan Moller Okin, “Feminism and Multiculturalism: Some Tensions” (~20pp)
Thursday	Susan Muaddi Darraj, “It’s Not an Oxymoron: The Search for an Arab Feminism” (~15pp)
WEEK 8: A New Politics of “Identity”? Tuesday	<p>Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The First White President” https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/10/the-first-white-president-ta-nehisi-coates/537909/</p> <p>Briahna Joy Gray, “How Identity Became a Weapon Against the Left” https://blackagendareport.com/how-identity-became-weapon-against-left</p> <p>Video, Marco Rubio speech – “The New Conservative Movement...” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiwKc-e_q6c</p> <p>**SECOND REFLECTION DUE**</p>
Thursday	<p>Fred Bauer, “The Left and Discriminating Tolerance” http://www.nationalreview.com/article/420094/left-and-discriminating-tolerance-fred-bauer</p> <p>Walter Benn Michaels, Charles W. Mills, Linda Hirshman and Carla Murphy, “What is the Left Without Identity Politics?” https://www.thenation.com/article/what-is-the-left-without-identity-politics/</p>
WEEK 9: New Anxieties about Diversity Tuesday	<p>Nancy Fraser, “A Triple Movement?” (~20pp)</p> <p>Commercial for Benetton https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZKszTyfubw</p>
Thursday	<p>Paul Gilroy, “The Crisis in Race and Raciology” (~15pp)</p> <p>**Movie Screening** - Thursday <i>or</i> Friday night: <i>Get Out</i> (2016)</p>

WEEK 10: Final Thoughts Tuesday	Discussion of film
Thursday	Course conclusion/review **FINAL ESSAY ROUGH-DRAFT DUE**

FINAL ESSAY DUE: THURSDAY OF FINALS WEEK