The Individual and Modernity focuses on the problems of modernity, both in America and abroad, as addressed by contemporary social scientists. Beginning with recent work in developmental and social psychology and moving through the fields of sociology, history, and economics, the course considers some of today’s most pressing issues: racial and ethnic identity, the changing fabric of American cities, and current strains in our political and economic institutions. The course concludes with a consideration of rival views in the field of international relations, with special attention to questions of just and unjust wars, the responsibilities of a world power, and what place, if any, ethics ought to have in the conduct of foreign policy.

Grades will be determined by your seminar professor. They will be based on a combination of written work, examinations, and class participation, based on the following proportions:

- Seminar papers - 40%
- Research paper - 45%
- Seminar participation - 15%

Research Paper - The principal assignment of the semester will be a research paper of approximately 12 pages in length on a topic related to one or more of the themes of the course. Students will develop paper topics in consultation with their professor and will be expected to begin independent secondary research and writing by mid-semester, with a rough drafts in mid-March and the final version due at the end of the semester. (Seminar leaders will provide specific due dates.)

The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. Writing Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. To make an appointment with a tutor, stop by the Core Office (CAS 119) or call 353-5404. Tutors’ offices are in the Core Office.

Academic Conduct: We expect the work you perform in this course to be your own. Presenting the work of someone else as your own is plagiarism, and it will be punished by an F for the assignment and possibly for the course as well, with possible further sanctions by the University Academic Conduct Committee. The Boston University Academic Conduct Code describes plagiarism as including each of the following: “copying the answers of another student on an examination, copying or substantially restating the work of another person or persons in any oral or written work without citing the appropriate source, and collaboration with someone else in an academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution” (p. 2). A more detailed discussion with examples appears on pp. 9-14 of the Code. It is your responsibility to read these pages carefully and know exactly what constitutes plagiarism.
Nancy Foner, *From Ellis Island to JFK* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000)

**Schedule of Lectures** (Thursdays 2:00-3:30, CAS 522)

- **Week 1 (January 15):** Pinker, *Blank Slate* (Chapters 1, 3, 8, 12, and 18)
  Lecturer: Steven Pinker (Harvard University)
- **Week 2 (January 22):** Gilligan, *In A Different Voice* (Chapters 1-3)
  Lecturer: Deborah Belle (Department of Psychology)
- **Week 3 (January 29):** Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (Chapters I, IV, VII)
  Lecturer: David Swartz (Department of Sociology)
- **Week 4 (February 5):** Anderson, *Code of the Streets* (Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 4
  Lecturer: David Swartz
- **Week 5 (February 12):** Loury, *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality* (Chapters 1-2)
  Lecturer: Glenn Loury (Department of Economics)
- **Week 6 (February 19):** Loury, *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality* (Chapters 3-5)
  Panel discussion on race in America (participants to be announced)
- **Week 7 (February 26):** Foner, *From Ellis Island to JFK* (Intro., Chapters 1, 3, 4, 8; pp. 165-68, 217-23
  Lecturer: Marilyn Halter (Department of History)
- **Week 8 (March 4):** Putnam, *Bowling Alone* (Chapters 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16)
  Lecturer: Jane Mansbridge (John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University)
- **Week 9 (March 18):** Rawls, *Justice as Fairness* (pp. 1-61, 72-94)
  Lecturer: Juliet Floyd (Department of Philosophy)
- **Week 10 (March 25):** Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (photocopied selections to be distributed)
  Lecturer: Glenn Loury
- **Week 11 (April 1):** Krugman, *Peddling Prosperity* (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6, 8)
  Lecturer: Larry Kotlikoff (Department of Economics)
- **Week 12 (April 8):** Walzer, *Just/Unjust Wars* (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13)
Lecturer to be announced

Week 13 (April 15): Fromkin, *The Independence of Nations* (Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6; pp. 120, 139-45, and 159-61)
Lecturer: Joachim Maitre (Department of International Relations)

Week 14 (April 22): Ignatieff, *Human Rights as Politics and Political Idolatry* (pp. 3-98)
Lecturer to be announced

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