**CC204 Spring 2006: The Individual and Modernity**

CAS – The Core Curriculum, Boston University
Course Coordinator - Professor David L. Swartz

Main Lecture: Thurs. 2-3:30, STO B50

Faculty:  
Nir Eisikovits (nire@bu.edu): B1 - MWF 11-12, CAS 225  
B2 - MWF 1-2., STH 318  
B3 - MWF 2-3, CAS 220  
Brian Jorgensen (bwj@bu.edu): B5 - MWF 2-3, CAS 325  
David Swartz (dswartz@bu.edu): HS - T, Th 9:30-11, CAS 114B

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, politics, economics and international relations, the course considers some of today’s most pressing issues: identity, gender, work, race, immigration, community, religion, and current strains in our political and economic institutions. The level of analysis begins with the individual and shifts to larger and larger social groupings during the course of the semester. The course concludes with a consideration of rival views in the field of international politics, 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 and class participation, based on the following proportions:

Seminar papers - 45%  
Research paper - 35%  
Seminar participation - 20%

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 seminar professor and will be expected to begin independent secondary research and writing already by mid-semester though the final version is due at the end of the semester. Seminar leaders will outline specific steps, such as topic selection, rough outline, annotated bibliography, detailed outline and/or rough draft), and their specific due dates for preparation of the research paper.

The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. The Core faculty encourage you to make good use of it. 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.

Class Participation A significant portion of your final grade will be based on class participation. Regular attendance at both Thursday lectures and individual seminar meetings is of course key. Good participation goes beyond attendance, however; any form of positive, active and reflective involvement
in the course, such as asking or responding to questions, participating in class discussions, sending emails with substantive queries, and attending office hours to discuss class material, could enhance your final grade. Your seminar professor will indicate how participation will be evaluated in your particular section and the forms of participation that he particularly values.

The Thursday lectures are an integral part of the course - not an optional component - and they will be discussed in the seminars. A portion of your participation grade will measure your attendance and understanding of the lectures. Take good lecture notes and bring them to the seminars for discussion. Discuss them with fellow students and your professors. Avoid any commercial use of lecture and seminar materials, such as buying or selling notes, summaries, handouts, and other course materials. Buying such materials is a waste of your money. There is no substitute for being there yourself and engaging the assigned materials directly. To rely on a commercial substitute would be like pontificating on a text that you have never read! And selling your class notes would be tantamount to what one of our thinkers from the first semester called “estranged labor,” giving away your “species-being” for a price!

**Academic Conduct:** We expect the work you perform in this course to be your own. Presenting the work of someone else as your own, in any way, shape, or form, is plagiarism, and it will be punished by an F for the assignment and possibly for the course as well; more severe sanctions by the University Academic Conduct Committee are possible. 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.

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**Required Texts**

Nancy Foner, *From Ellis Island to JFK* (Yale University Press, 2000)
Schedule of Lectures, Th. 2:00-3:30, STO B50

Week 1 (Jan. 19) Human Nature Revisited - Steven Pinker, *The Blank Slate* (chaps. 1,3,8,12, 18)
Lecturer: Richard Ely, Department of Psychology

Week 2 (Jan. 26) Gender - Virginia Valian, *Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women* (Chaps. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8)
Lecturer: Deborah Belle, Department of Psychology

Week 3 (Feb. 2) Work - Jerry Jacobs and Kathleen Gerson, *The Time Divide: Work, Family, and Gender Inequality*. (Intro., chaps. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6)
Lecturer: Emily Barman, Department of Sociology

Lecturer: Thomas Glick, Department of History

Week 5 (Feb. 16) Street Cultures, Welfare State & Violence - Elijah Anderson, *Code of the Streets* (Intro. & chaps 1,2,4)
Lecturer: David Swartz, Department of Sociology and Core Curriculum

Week 6 (Feb. 23) Immigration & Cities - Nancy Foner, *From Ellis Island to JFK* (Intro. & chaps. 1,3,4,8 plus pp. 165-68; 217-23)
Lecturer: Marilyn Halter, Department of History

Week 7 (Mar. 2) Community & Social Capital - Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone* (chaps. 1,7-10,15, 16)
Lecturer: David Swartz, Department of Sociology and Core Curriculum

SPRING BREAK

Lecture: Nancy Ammerman, Department of Sociology and School of Theology

Lecture: Nir Eisikovits , Core Curriculum

Lecturer: Glenn Loury, Department of Economics, Brown University

Week 11 (April 6) Whose Retirement? - Lawrence Kotlikoff, *The Coming Generational Storm* (Prologue plus chaps. 1,2,5, 6)
Lecturer: Laurence Kotlikoff, Department of Economics

Week 12 (Apr. 13) Just War or Just War? - Michael Walzer, *Just/Unjust Wars* (chaps. 1,2,3,11,12, 13)
Lecturer: Robert Jackson, Department of International Relations

Week 13 (Apr. 20) Power Politics & Nations - Fromkin, *The Independence of Nations* (Intro. & chaps. 1,2,4,6; pp. 120, 139-45, 159-61)
Lecturer: Michael Corgan, Department of International Relations