**CC204 Spring 2008: The Individual and Modernity**  
CAS Core Curriculum, Boston University  
Course Coordinator, Professor David L. Swartz

**Lecture:** Thursdays 2-3:30, CAS 522

**Faculty:**
- Edward Murphy: eumurphy@bu.edu  
  B1  TH 11-12:30  STH B22  
  B2  TH 12:30-2  CAS 221  
  B3  TH 3:30-5  CAS 212
- Stefan Kalt: kaltst@bu.edu  
  B4  TH 11-12:30  CAS 119  
  B5  TH 12:30-2  STH B22  
  B6  TH 3:30-5  CAS 114B
- David Swartz  
  dswartz@bu.edu  
  HS  TH 3:30-5  CAS 119

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

**Research Paper.** The principal assignment of the semester will be a research paper of approximately 12-15 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; 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**

Schedule of Lectures
Th. 2:00-3:30, CAS 522

Week 1 (Jan. 17) Human Nature Revisited - Steven Pinker, *The Blank Slate*
Reading: Chapters 1, 3, 8, 12, 18
Lecturer: Richard Ely, Department of Psychology

Week 2 (Jan. 24) Gender Differences - Sarah Blaffer Hrdy, *Mother Nature*
Reading: Preface and Chapters 1-3, 12, 14, 20, 23
Lecturer: Deborah Belle, Department of Psychology

Reading: assigned pages to be announced
Lecturer: Virginia Sapiro, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Week 4 (Feb. 7) Social Identity - Erving Goffman, *Presentation of Self*
Reading: Introduction and chapters I, IV and VII
Lecturer: David Swartz, Dept. of Sociology

Week 5 (Feb. 14) Social Identity & Authority - Stanley Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*
Reading: assigned pages to be announced and viewing of the film *Obedience*
Lecturer: David Swartz, Department of Sociology

Week 6 (Feb. 21) Street Cultures, Welfare State & Violence - Elijah Anderson, *Code of the Streets*
Reading: Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 4
Lecturer: Edward Murphy, Core Curriculum

Week 7 (Feb. 28) Immigration & Cities - Nancy Foner, *In a New Land: A Comparative View of Immigration*
Reading: assigned pages to be announced
Lecturer: Susan Eckstein, Department of Sociology

Week 8 (March 6) Community & Social Capital - Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*
Reading: Chapters 1, 7-10, 15, 16
Lecturer: Thomas Sander, Executive Director of the Saguaro Seminar on Civic Engagement in America, JFK School of Government, Harvard University

SPRING BREAK

Reading: Introduction, Chapters 1, 5, 8, and Conclusion
Lecture: Nancy Ammerman, Department of Sociology and School of Theology

Week 10 (Mar. 27) Race - Glenn Loury, *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality* (Part I)
Reading: Chapters 1-2, 3, 5
Lecturer: Glenn Loury, Brown University

Reading: Prologue plus Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6
Lecturer: Laurence Kotlikoff, Department of Economics

Reading: Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 7
Lecturer: Strom Thacker, Department of International Relations

Week 13 (Apr. 17) Just War or Just War? - Michael Walzer, *Just/Unjust Wars*
Reading: chapters 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13
Lecturer: Michael Corgan, Department of International Relations

Reading: Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6; pp. 120, 139-45, 159-61
Lecturer: Andrew Bacevich, Department of International Relations

Week 15 (May 1) Conclusion to the Course