CC204 Spring 2009: Core Social Sciences II

Course Coordinator - David L. Swartz

Main Lecture: Thurs. 2-3:30, CAS 522

Faculty Discussion Sections

David Swartz (Sociology) dswartz@bu.edu A1 – Thurs. 2-3:30, CAS 522
HS - TH 3:30-5, CAS 119
Edward Murphy (Core) eumurphy@bu.edu B1 - TH 11-12:30, STH B20
B2 - TH 12:30-2., STH 319
B3 - TH 3:30-5, CAS 323B
James Johnson (History) jhj@bu.edu B5 – TH 12:30-2, CAS 220
Thornton Lockwood (Core) tlock@bu.edu B6 – TH 3:30-5, CAS 220

Core Social Sciences II 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, authority, 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 discussion section professor. They will be based on a combination of written work and class participation, and will likely follow these 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 discussion section 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.
Seminar Papers. Seminar leaders will assign a few shorter papers on various topics and you should consult your section syllabus for specifics.

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 section 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 discussion section 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 sections. A portion of your participation grade will measure your attendance and understanding of the lectures. Take good lecture notes and bring them to the sections for discussion. Discuss them with fellow students and your professors. Avoid any commercial use of lecture and section 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.
## Required Texts


In addition, a number of readings will be posted at http://bu.edu/core/courses/cc204

### Schedule of Lectures

Th. 2:00-3:30, CAS 522

**Week 1 (Jan. 15)** Human Nature Revisited - Selected readings from developmental and moral psychology (Core web site) Lecturer: Richard Ely, Department of Psychology


**Week 3 (Jan 29)** Social Identity - Erving Goffman, *Presentation of Self* (Introduction plus chaps. I, IV and VII) Lecturer: David Swartz, Dept. of Sociology

**Week 4 (Feb. 5)** Social Identity & Authority - Stanley Milgram, *Obedience to Authority* (Chaps. 1-3, 5,7,11,14,15) & film *Obedience* Lecturer: David Swartz, Dept. of Sociology

**Week 5 (Feb. 12)** America Unequal: Structures of Stratification - Douglas Massey, *Categorically Unequal: The American Stratification System* (assigned pages to be announced) Lecturers: Edward Murphy, Core Curriculum, and David Swartz, Department of Sociology

**Week 6 (Feb. 19)** Urban Poverty, Street Cultures and Violence - Elijah Anderson, *Code of the Streets* (Intro. & chaps 1,2,4) Lecturer: Edward Murphy, Core Curriculum

**Week 7 (Feb. 26)** Immigration - Peggy Levitt, *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape* (Prologue, chaps. 1,2,3, Conclusion, and Appendix) Lecturer: Marilyn Halter, Department of History
Week 8 (March 5) Community & Social Capital - Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone* (chaps. 1, 7-10, 15, 16) Lecturer: David Swartz, Department of Sociology

SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (Mar. 19) Religion & Pluralism - Alan Wolfe, *The Transformation of American Religion*, (Chaps. Intro., 1, 5, 8, and Conclusion) Lecture: Nancy Ammerman, Department of Sociology and School of Theology


Week 11 (April 2) Topic & readings to be announced

Week 12 (Apr. 9) Just War or Just War? - Michael Walzer, *Just/Unjust Wars* (preface to the 4th edition, Chaps. 1, 2, 3, 5, 12, 16) Lecturer: Michael Corgan, Department of International Relations

Week 13 (Apr. 16) Terrorism and just war theory. Selected readings from international relations and just war theory (Core web site). Lecturer: Thornton Lockwood, Core Curriculum

Weeks 14 and 15: Conferences on final research papers with faculty. No Thursday lectures but regular section meetings except for Thursday April 23 (Monday schedule substitution).