

Prof. Husain Haqqani
Department of International Relations

152, Bay State Road
Tel: 617-358-0195
Email: haqqani@bu.edu

Instructor – Aparna Pande
Email: apande@bu.edu

CAS IR 531 Intercultural Communication

Fall 2007

"Intercultural communication was plagued by ignorance and folly, fraud and mistrust, cupidity and arrogance; indeed, as time wore on, the interference got worse rather than better." James H. Merrell Into the American Woods: Negotiators on the Pennsylvania Frontier, 1999

"...the fundamental source of conflict in this new world will not primarily be ideological or primarily economic. The great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural."- Samuel Huntington The Clash of Civilizations? 1993

"...the United States and the West have little useful context in which to try to understand Osama bin Laden" Anonymous. Through Our Enemies' Eyes, 2003

Course Guide:

This seminar will examine historical and contemporary aspects and problems of communication between and among individuals, groups, tribes, nations, states with divergent beliefs, customs and cultures. Our approach will be interdisciplinary (as can be concluded from the Reading List on page 2).

Students are expected to attend all classes except in case of a valid excuse (e.g. personal illness), in which case please e-mail me.

BU's Academic Conduct Code applies. Please make sure you have studied it.

Students are expected to read The New York Times daily to be able to follow both international and domestic developments related to the themes of the course. We will be discussing relevant events in class on a regular basis so it is important for you to be current on what is happening around you. Access to the full daily edition of the Times is available on-line. You may also subscribe, or view hard-copy versions at Mugar library. Consult the attached selection of articles for a first impression of our topic's variety.

Grading:

Class participation 20%

Mid-term	30%
Term Paper	50%

Weekly Schedule

Week One

Introduction

(Peter Berger. "Four Faces of Culture." The National Interest. Fall 1997; Amartya Sen. "Civilizational Imprisonments: How to misunderstand everybody in the world." The New Republic. June 2002)

Week Two

Approaches and Methods

(Samovar/Porter – Preface, Chps 1 & 2)

Week Three

Culture and Civilization. Nation and State

(Arthur Schlesinger – entire book ; Anatol Lieven – Preface, Chp 1 and Conclusion; Himmelfarb – Preface, Chp 1 and Epilogue;)

Week Four

Multiculturalism, Globalization, Balkanization, Irreconcilable Concepts, Unstoppable Trends?

(Christopher Lasch – Introduction, Chps 2, 3, 4 & 13)

Week Five

First-Third World. Disputes over "Development;" India. Hinduism, Stagnation, the "Worlds Largest Democracy."

(V.S. Naipaul – entire book)

Week Six

Islam and the West: Is a Clash Inevitable? Culture in an Age of Terrorism

(Ian Buruma – Chps 1, 2 & 5;

Week Seven

The Limits of Growth. Population and Environment Dimension of the Debate; Migration, Legal and Illegal. Mexico/USA, Maghreb/France, Turkey/Germany, Conquering Cultures

(Thomas Sowell – Preface, Chps 1 & 2; Thomas Frank- Introduction, Chps 1 & 2

Week Eight

International Organizations. On the Road to World Government? Universal and Conflicting Values
(Thomas Sowell – Chps 6,7,8 & 9; George Lakoff – Preface, Chps 1, 2, 5 & 6)

Week Nine

Negotiating Across Cultures. Culture, Diplomacy and Propaganda
(Raymond Cohen – Foreword, Chps 1, 2, 4,5 & 12)

Week Ten

Culture and Anarchy. The Pressures for Change
(Articles to be distributed)

Week Eleven

Wrap Up, Failures to Communicate
(Articles to be distributed)

Reading List

Required

Gertrude Himmelfarb, One Nation. Two Cultures, Knopf, 1999
Christopher Lasch, The Revolt of the Elites, W.W. Norton, 1995
Anatol Lieven, America Right or Wrong, Oxford, 2004
V.S. Naipaul, India-A Wounded Civilization, Vintage, 1978
Arthur Schlesinger, The Disuniting of America, W.W. Norton, 1992
Thomas Sowell, A Conflict of Visions, William Morrow, 1987

Recommended

Amartya Sen The Argumentative Indian, 2006
Anonymous, Through our Enemies' Eyes, 2003
Matthew Arnold, Culture and Anarchy, Yale, 1994
Ian Buruma and Avishai Margalit, Occidentalism, Penguin Press, 2004
Raymond Cohen, Negotiating Across Cultures, USIP, 1997
Robert Edgerton, Sick Societies – Challenging the Myth of Primitive Harmony, The Free Press, 1992
Thomas Frank, What's the Matter with Kansas? Metropolitan Books, 2004
Eric Hoffer, The Ordeal of Change, Harper & Row, 1963
George Lakoff, Moral Politics, University of Chicago Press, 2002

Camille Paglia, Sex, Art, and American Culture, Vintage, 1992

Thomas Sowell, Race and Culture, Basic Books, 1994

Term Paper Topics (Suggestions)

"The test of a first rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposite ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function."- F. Scott Fitzgerald

- American Nationalism: Is America Always Right?
- The Death Penalty
- Self-Determination of Nations
- "Global Warming"
- Bilingual Education
- "You Cannot Legislate Morality"
- Winning Hearts and Minds in the War against Terrorism
- Global Nation
- Separation of State and Church

Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday

2 pm – 4pm

Other times by appointment via email