1. Course Description*

Modern democracies are not only made up of diverse individuals but diverse cultures. How ought liberal democracies address cultural pluralism, especially when the claims of cultures conflict? This question is explored principally by critically examining liberal multiculturalism, which argues that group-differentiated rights are not only consistent with, but required by, the basic liberal democratic values of freedom and equality. Ultimately the course goes beyond a secular multiculturalism by seeking to understand cultural pluralism within a political theological framework. Will Kymlicka and Nicholas Wolterstorff are among the theorists considered, and particular attention is given both to Quebec and Islam as case studies.

*This syllabus is based on a course outline previously developed and taught at ICS by Dr. Jonathan Chaplin, Spring 2005, course code ICT 2632 S05.

2. Reading Schedule

Week 1: The Problematic
  - Selections from the Bouchard-Taylor Report

Week 2: The Proposal: Liberal Multiculturalism
  - Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition" (pp. 25-73)

Week 3: The Proposal: Liberal Multiculturalism
  - Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship*, chs. 1-4 (pp. 1-74)

Week 4: The Proposal: Liberal Multiculturalism
  - Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship*, chs. 5-6 (pp. 75-130)
  - Chaplin, “How Much Cultural and Religious Pluralism can Liberalism Tolerate?” (pp. 32-49)

Week 5: The Proposal: Liberal Multiculturalism
  - Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship*, chs. 7-10 (pp. 131-195)

Week 6: Objections to Liberal Multiculturalism
  - e.g., Okin, “Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?” (pp. 9-24)
Week 7: Liberal Multiculturalism Strikes Back
  • Modood, *Multiculturalism*, chs. 1-4 (pp. 1-74)

Week 8: Liberal Multiculturalism Strikes Back
  • Modood, *Multiculturalism*, chs. 5-7 (pp. 75-151)

Week 9: Liberal Multiculturalism Strikes Back
  • Modood, *Multiculturalism*, chs. 8-10 (pp. 152-195)

Week 10: Political Theology and Pluralism
  • Wolterstorff, *Understanding Liberal Democracy: Essays in Political Philosophy*, chs. 5-6 (pp. 113-176)

Week 11: Political Theology and Pluralism
  • Wolterstorff, *Understanding Liberal Democracy: Essays in Political Philosophy*, chs. 7-10 (pp. 177-276)

Week 12: Political Theology and Pluralism
  • Wolterstorff, *Understanding Liberal Democracy: Essays in Political Philosophy*, chs. 11-14 (pp. 277-352)

Week 13: Wrap-Up
  • Readings TBD

NOTE: The instructor retains the right to make adjustments to this syllabus for the class' benefit.

3. Course Learning Goals

Students will be able to:
  1. understand the moral and political questions raised by cultural pluralism in order to address them in ways consistent with the basic values of liberal democracy;
  2. analyze cultural diversity both from liberal multicultural and political theological perspectives in order to theorize cultural pluralism on a theological foundation while also incorporating the best insights of secular thought;
  3. practically apply the political theory of multiculturalism in order to respond to real-world issues justly and Biblically.

4. Course Requirements and Description and Weighting of Elements to be Evaluated

  1. Weekly reading: approx. 75 pages/week
  2. Application Essays: Students will write two short essays, approx. 500 words each, relating current events to themes discussed in class. Students will discuss two such issues, one per essay.
  3. Seminar Presentation: Students will each take a turn presenting the week’s readings. Presenters will summarize and lead group discussion on the week’s readings, stimulating the class to critically reflect on key questions and concepts.
  4. Description of course project: Students must research and write a substantial paper on a topic pertinent to the course material. The paper should be 3000-4000 words (approx. 15
Description and weighting of elements to be evaluated:

i. Class participation: 20%
ii. Application Essays: 20%
iii. Seminar Presentation: 20%
iv. Research Paper: 40%

5. Required Readings


6. Some Recommended Readings


James Tully, Strange Multiplicity: Constitutionalism in an Age of Diversity (Cambridge, 1995). (ICS
**Other Resources**


Nicholas Wolterstorff, *The Mighty and the Almighty: An Essay in Political Theology* (Cambridge,
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Student Services as soon as possible.