

AMERICAN MULTICULTURALISM AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM
LSP 200, Sections 319 and 322 (Sophomore Seminar)
Spring 2011 Syllabus
Adj. Professor Daniel Kamin
TuTh 11:20-12:50 (Section 319), 1:00-2:30 (Section 322)
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Course Objective: To examine how the War on Terrorism has affected our multicultural society. We will first consider the meaning and significance of our pluralistic society in order to gain an understanding of American culture. Then we will confront the War on Terrorism that America has been waging since September 2001. We will explore the circumstances that led us into this War, the policies of our government, and the reaction of the American people on the whole as well as the reaction of distinct ethnic, racial, and religious communities in the U.S. toward the 9/11 disaster. We will follow these reactions as they have continued to develop over the past 9 1/2 years. The diverse perspectives of various communities within America's pluralistic culture on the rationale for--and conduct of--the War on Terror will be considered in order to better understand and appreciate similarities and differences between distinct sub-groups in American society.

Course Evaluation: 33.3% of the Grade will be based on Class Participation as well as quizzes and summaries of class material. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned reading and prepared to discuss the material presented therein. **Between April 12th and May 10th, students may be required to bring in a 3-4 page summary of some or all of each week's reading assignment.** There will be at least three such summaries. The first two are on the War on Terror book and the third one will cover three of the Paul Berman readings on e-reserve. The assignment will either be due on Tuesday or Thursday of the week based on where we are in class discussion, with the Professor announcing the due date at least one class in advance. Student participation will be required as current events in the War on Terrorism are discussed with an eye toward their multicultural implications. There will be 3 quizzes on class material, including readings, lectures/discussion, and films. The dates for each quiz will be announced at the end of class and taken at the beginning of one of the next two classes. In-class responsibilities will culminate in the last few weeks of class, when teams of two to three students will give a power-point presentation covering the perspective of an American sub-group toward the War on Terror. 33.3% will be based on three writing assignments designed to monitor current events stories in the news as they apply to our class. Each student will utilize newspapers and

periodicals using databases available online for all DePaul students to examine articles on the War on Terrorism as well as the War's impact on various American communities. Each assignment will consist of a copy of an article (or two, if you wish to compare two similar articles) along with a **3-4** (printed) page analysis of the article(s). The analysis should include a brief summary (up to a third of the piece) but mostly your personal impressions and an analysis of the article's relevance to our subject matter. **The article(s) used must be stapled (not paper-clipped) to the back of the writing assignment.** Articles on America's War on Terror in general must be from 2011 (preferably from April or May), but articles covering an aspect of American multiculturalism, including any and all ethnic, racial, and religious groups and the War on Terror can go as far back as 9/11/01. **The due dates for the three articles are April 21th, May 12th, and May 26th.** Finally, 33.3% will be based on the afore-mentioned class presentations and a **6-10 page paper (10-15 pages, including graphs, tables, and charts) due the last day of class (June 2nd)** supplementing that presentation with personal research involving one or two American ethnic, racial, and/or religious communities and their attitudes toward the War on Terrorism. If a student wishes to do his or her paper topic on some other aspect of American multiculturalism and the War on Terror, s/he must have the topic approved by me before commencing work on the paper. Each student will do his or her own individual paper. Further guidelines for the three types of writing assignments (summaries, analyses, and final presentation/papers) will be handed out and discussed at least one week prior to the first assignment of each kind.

Attendance: Mandatory. If a quiz or presentation is missed due to an unexcused absence or for being excessively late to class, the student will receive a zero for that quiz or presentation. **EXCESSIVE ABSENCE WILL CAUSE YOUR GRADE TO DROP BY A MINIMUM OF ONE LETTER.** Even if a student has a special circumstance and I approve an absence, the student is responsible for all missed work.

Office Hours: From 2:45-3:30 on class days or by appointment by e-mailing dkamin@depaul.edu. If you cannot reach me by email, you can call me at 773-325-4754.

Reading: The War on Terror by Paul Ruschmann
Course Packet on e-reserve at
<http://eres.lib.depaul.edu/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=3719>
Password: lsp200

Students required to print pages as required by Professor
for class discussion
Handouts may be given in class

- MARCH 29-31: INTRO: AMERICA AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM
Reading: First Bin Laden reading
Theodore Roosevelt on Americanism (Course Packet)
- APRIL 5-7: WHAT IS AMERICAN PLURALISM?
Reading: John Kass reading
Pluralism Definition (Course Packet)
- APRIL 12-14: WAR ON TERROR: TERRORISM AND THE BUSH
DOCTRINE
Reading: Ruschmann, pp. 1-54
President Bush's post 9/11 speeches in Course Packet
- APRIL 19-21: FILM ON U.S. WAR IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN
WAR ON TERROR: MILITARY JUSTICE
Reading: Ruschmann, pp. 55-131
- APRIL 26-28: FILM: TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE
SECURITY VS. CIVIL LIBERTIES
Reading: Second Bin Laden reading, 2nd Bush
Inaugural Address
- MAY 3-5: TERROR, JIHADISM AND LIBERALISM
Reading: Jihad reading and Paul Berman Readings on e-reserve
- MAY 10-12: MUSLIM-AMERICANS AND JEWISH-AMERICANS
Reading: Obama speeches (inaugural address and speech to
Muslim world) and relevant sections of Course Packet
- MAY 17-19: AFRICAN-AMERICANS, LATINO-AMERICANS, ASIAN-
AMERICANS AND WHITE ETHNICS
Reading: Relevant sections of Course Packet
- MAY 24-31: AMERICAN CATHOLICS, MAINSTREAM PROTESTANTS,
AND EVANGELICALS
Reading: Relevant sections of Course Packet
- JUNE 2: THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN PLURALISM AND THE WAR
ON TERRORISM (FINAL PAPERS DUE)