Political Culture in Comparative Perspective

This seminar studies the relationship between culture and power. The seminar begins by exploring different perspectives on culture, then moves on to examine the role of values, ideology, group identity, public symbols, collective memory, and discourse in the contestation of power and the shaping of political structures. The focus of analysis and discussion is both theoretical and empirical. There is no particular regional emphasis. Instead, we will deal with a wide range of case studies drawn from various countries, both in historical and contemporary settings.

Course Requirements:
Informed class participation is essential and will count for a substantial portion of your grade (25%). Another 25% of the grade will be determined by a 10-minute class presentation that outlines the central points of the assigned readings for and provides two broad discussion topics. The remaining 50% will be determined by the quality of your final paper.

Reading Materials:
All assigned readings available on TRUNK.

1. Introductory Session
Overview and housekeeping.

2. Culture: Sociology

Say it Plain, Say it Loud

3. Culture: History, Political Science


4. Re-conceptualizing culture: Conquest, State-Building


5. State-Building (Continued)


6. Rebellion, Revolution

Rodney Baker, “Rebels and Vigilantes,” in Baker’s *Legitimating Identities: The*


7. Rebellion, Revolution (Continued)


8. Memory, Learning, Transitions


9. Memory and the Public Stage


10. Cross-Cultural Politics

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” The National Interest (Summer 1989), pp.3-18


11. Cross-Cultural Politics (Continued)


12. Culture and World Politics

