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 (20%). A 10 minute class presentation (outlining the central points of the assigned readings for that session, or a reasoned outline of discussion topics for that session) will count for another 20%. The remaining 60 % will be determined by the quality of your final paper.

Reading Materials:
All assigned readings will be available on Blackboard.

1. Introductory Session
Overview and housekeeping.

2. Culture and Power: Sociology, History, Anthropology


3. Culture and Power: Political Science


David Laitin, “Political Culture and Political Preferences;” and “Response” to Laitin by Aaron Wildavsky, both articles in *American Political Science Review (APSR)*, 82, pp.589-597.


4. Culture, Conquest, State-Building


5. Culture, Rebellion, Revolution


6. Culture and Political Membership


7. Memory, Learning, Politics


8. Performance, Debate, Democracy


9. Cross-Cultural Politics


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


10. Cross-Cultural Politics (continued)


11. **Identity: Construction, Tolerance, Recognition**


12. **Culture and World Politics**


