

Immigration and Citizenship (POLS 202)

Syllabus, Fall 2008
Department of History and Political Science
4 credit hours

Professor: Peter Meilaender
Office: 313 Faculty Building
Office phone: x4290
Home phone: 567-2868 (not after 9:00, please)
E-mail: peter.meilaender@houghton.edu
Office hours: Monday 8:30-9:30; Thursday 3:30-4:30

Students are responsible for being familiar with the contents of this syllabus.

Description

This course explores the questions, What does it mean to be a member of a political community? And how does one become a member? Typically considers historical development of American immigration and citizenship policy; philosophical analyses of citizenship and the right of movement; problems of integration and diversity; comparative policy analysis; and the role of citizenship in a changing world. Integrative Studies--Social Science.

Books

Roger Daniels and Otis Graham, *Debating American Immigration*
Aristotle, *Politics*, tr. Reeve
Derek Heater, *A Brief History of Citizenship*
Rogers Brubaker, *Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany*
Peter Spiro, *Beyond Citizenship*
Alexander Aleinikoff and Douglas Klusmeyer, *Citizenship Policies for an Age of Migration*

Course packet: Michael Walzer, "Membership"

Attendance

Obviously, attendance is required. Once I have learned all of your names, I will not necessarily take attendance every day, but I do notice who is frequently absent or late and may take this into consideration when I determine final semester grades.

Requirements and Grading

Your grade will be based upon four factors, each worth 25% of the total:

- (1) An exam following our discussion of the Carens and Walzer readings (see schedule below);
- (2) A 5-page paper following our reading of Brubaker;

- (3) A 5-page paper following our reading of Heater; and
- (4) A final exam.

Though I will not assign a weighted percentage to class participation, I do take it into consideration--along with my judgement of your interest, effort, and enthusiasm--before determining final semester grades.

Information on writing papers

Plagiarism policy: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas without giving appropriate credit (typically in the form of foot- or endnotes). I will fail any assignment in which I discover plagiarism, and a second offense will automatically result in failing the course. You should be aware that I am required by college policy to report instances of plagiarism.

Format: Use a 12-point, Times font; the margins should be 1.25 inches left and right and 1 inch top and bottom (in other words, you should use standard margins). Number your pages. Double-space the paper. Staple it. You do not need a title page. Research papers should include a bibliography and proper citations of all sources used. I do not care what format you use for references and bibliography, as long as it is some recognized method and you are consistent. Other papers, involving only the assigned class readings, do not require a bibliography or notes. In such papers, you may cite assigned texts by giving a page number in parentheses within the paper.

Content vs. style: This is a false dichotomy. The main thing I look for in a paper is good argument--every paper you write ought to persuade the reader of something. But if you write poorly, it compromises your ability to make a good argument. One of the chief characteristics of a good argument is its clarity. Bad, awkward, mistake-riddled prose impedes clarity, whereas crisp, smooth, grammatically correct prose promotes it. If I can't figure out what you mean, your argument will not be very persuasive. So although I rarely raise or lower a grade specifically because of writing style, it is inevitably true that the quality of your prose can indirectly affect your grade by making your argument more or less perspicuous.

Grammar, usage, style, etc.: I will circle or otherwise mark (often with squiggly underlining) errors in grammar, usage, and style in your papers. (I will not correct the errors myself--that's your job.) If I think that your paper does not meet minimally acceptable standards for college writing, I will return it to you and ask that you rewrite it. *The Elements of Style*, by Strunk & White, is a useful and inexpensive book that can be helpful in identifying common usage errors.

Wikipedia policy: You are not permitted to cite Wikipedia as a source in any papers. Though an extremely interesting experiment, Wikipedia does not yet qualify as a legitimate scholarly reference tool.

Late papers: My standard penalty is the following: When a paper is late, I lower its grade one notch on the grade scale (for example, from B to B-). I may lower the grade another notch for each additional 24 hours that it is late beyond that. If you think you have a good reason for needing an extension on a particular paper, you should speak to me about it. Just being busy is

not a good reason. I try to make paper due dates very clear in my syllabus so that you can plan ahead.

Classroom etiquette

1. A polite discussion is not the same as a timid one. Do not be afraid to share your views and disagree with others. Classroom respect does not preclude the willingness to tell other people that you think they are wrong; to the contrary, it requires it, because people who take each other's opinions seriously will inevitably disagree at times. So be tactful and courteous, but speak your mind.
2. Punctuality is expected, by me and your fellow students. Even if I typically spend the first minute or two of class taking attendance and chatting with students, you are expected to be here at the appointed class time, so that when I am ready to begin, I can do so. I notice and keep track of those who disrupt class by walking in late, and I consider a habit of doing so fair grounds for lowering your grade.
3. Men should remove hats and caps inside the building.
4. No eating in class. Drinking and gum-chewing are permitted, as long as they are not distracting.
5. No use of computers during class.
6. All cell phones, pagers, etc. must be turned off before entering class, unless you have received my specific permission for some very important reason (e.g., your wife is pregnant and could go into labor any minute). You will probably want to make a mental note that Prof. Meilaender especially dislikes cell phones.
7. It is customary for students to begin closing up their books and notes and packing everything into their bags roughly three minutes before the end of class. Refrain from doing so until I have indicated that we are finished.
8. No side conversations during class. Private chatter is extremely distracting and rude to all those around you. If you have a comment related to the class discussion, make it for all to hear; otherwise, save it for later.
9. No sleeping during class.

Schedule

Sept. 1: Syllabus and Introduction

Sept. 3: No class (Advising Day)

Sept. 8: Daniels and Graham, pp. 5-48

Sept. 10: Daniels and Graham, pp. 48-88

Sept. 15: Daniels and Graham, pp. 89-149

Sept. 17: Daniels and Graham, pp. 149-207

Sept. 22: Joseph Carens, "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders" (*The Review of Politics* 49.2 [Spring 1987], pp. 251-273. You should access this via the JSTOR database on the library's webpage. I expect you to print out your own copy to read and bring to class with you.

Sept. 24: No class

Sept. 29: Michael Walzer, "Membership," ch. 2 of *Spheres of Justice*. Photocopies of this will be available for sale in the bookstore.

Oct. 1: Debate

Oct. 6: Exam

Oct. 8: Brubaker, Introduction (pp. 1-17) and ch. 1 (pp. 21-34)

Oct. 13: Brubaker, ch. 3 (pp. 50-72)

Oct. 15: Brubaker, ch. 4 (pp. 75-84) and ch. 6 (pp. 114-137)

OCTOBER BREAK

Oct. 20: Brubaker, ch. 8 (pp. 165-178) and Conclusion (pp. 179-189); paper question distributed

Oct. 22: Open

Oct. 27: Aristotle, I.1-2 and III.1-5 (pp. 1-5, 65-75); first paper due

Oct. 29: Aristotle, III.6-13 (pp. 75-91)

Nov. 3: Aristotle, III.14-IV.3 (pp. 91-106)

Nov. 5: Aristotle, IV.4-13 (pp. 106-124)

Nov. 10: Heater, pp. 1-41

Nov. 12: Heater, pp. 42-87

Nov. 17: Heater, pp. 88-145; paper question distributed

Nov. 19: Spiro, Introduction and chs. 1-2 (pp. 3-58)

Nov. 24: Spiro, chs. 3-4 (pp. 59-108); second paper due

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Dec. 1: Spiro, chs. 5-6 and Conclusion (pp. 109-164)

Dec. 3: Aleinikoff/Klusmeyer, pp. 1-41

Dec. 8: Aleinikoff/Klusmeyer, pp. 42-77

Dec. 10: Open

FINAL EXAM: Saturday, Dec. 13, 1:30-3:30

Dec. 15: Open