This course provides a comparative overview of the relationships among culture, societal institutions, and public policy. It emphasizes the way in which basic values and beliefs play a role in the formation of institutions and the definitions of policy problems, and it presents culture and values as explanatory variables in institutional and policy differences among nations. It also provides an overview of the analytical methods used in studying culture and its impact on politics. Policy illustrations draw heavily from current national and international policy debates.

**Course Requirements**
Students are expected to keep up with each week’s required readings and to participate in class discussions. Grading is based on class presentations (20%), class discussions (10%), a short paper of 5-8 pages (30%), and a longer paper of roughly 20 pages based either on a topic covered in the course, or of a student’s own choosing [subject to instructor approval] (40%). The class presentation provides an overview and a critique of the week’s major topic (may or may not involve multiple readings), and depending on class size some topics will be assigned to two students.

**NOTE:** Class readings not in the required books will be made available through the MASONLIVE/Blackboard website for the course. All books can be purchased (and are preferred to be purchased) on line. But you are welcome to buy the print copies if you prefer.

**Course Objectives**
Students will learn the major arguments regarding the role of culture in the social sciences; acquire skill in using and critiquing those arguments; and learn the tools for research using cultural variables and data sets.

**REQUIRED WORK DUE DATES:**
Short paper is due **October 9**
Long (Final) Paper is due **December 11**
Papers should be submitted by email not later than 7:30pm on the due date.
Required Books (Alphabetically, by author)


**SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

**WEEK 1 – AUG. 28 -- INTRODUCTION: CULTURE AND POLICY**
Revised readings:


[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/there-was-no-romney-gaffe-in-israel/2012/08/01/gJQAhKUBPX_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/there-was-no-romney-gaffe-in-israel/2012/08/01/gJQAhKUBPX_story.html)


**WEEK 2 – SEPT. 4 – DEFINING CULTURE**

• Fukuyama, Francis, "The Primacy of Culture," *Journal of Democracy* 6 No. 1 (Jan 1995): 7-14.*  (* = available online from GMU library e-journals)

• Hofstede, Geert. Video: [http://vimeo.com/29036835](http://vimeo.com/29036835)


**WEEK 3 – SEPT. 11 – AMERICAN CULTURE**
**Required Readings:**

• Crothers, *Globalization and American Popular Culture*
WEEK 4 – SEPT. 18 – CULTURE AND THE ECONOMY
Required Readings:

WEEK 5 – SEPT. 25 – THE CULTURE WARS IN AMERICA
Required Readings:
• Frank, What’s the Matter with Kansas?

WEEK 6 – OCT. 2 – CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY: COMMON PATTERNS?
Required Reading:
• Levitsky and Way, Competitive Authoritarianism

WEEK 7 – OCT. 9 – CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY: CLASH?
Required Readings:
• Huntington, et al, Clash of Civilizations: The Debate

WEEK 8 – OCT. 16 – CULTURE IN A MULTI-POLAR WORLD
Required Readings:
• Zakaria, The Post-American World

WEEK 9 – OCT. 23 – ISLAMIC CULTURE
Required Readings:
• Roy, Secularism Confronts Islam

WEEK 10 – OCT. 30 – SCIENTIFIC CULTURE
Required Readings:
• Ferris, The Science of Liberty

WEEK 11 – NOV. 6 – CULTURE AND SOCIAL CAPITAL 1
Required Readings:
• Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993), Ch 4, 5, 6
WEEK 1 – NOV. 13 – CULTURE AND SOCIAL CAPITAL II
Required Readings:
- Larry Diamond, "Rethinking Civil Society," *Journal of Democracy* 5: 5-17 (1994).*

WEEK 13 -- NOV. 20
*THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, NO CLASS*

WEEK 14 – NOV. 27 – CULTURE AND IMMIGRATION
Required Readings:
- Swain, *Debating Immigration*

WEEK 15—DEC 4 – CULTURE AND GENDER
Required Readings:
- Sassen (Emailed)
- Berkovitch (Emailed)
- McLaren (Emailed)

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

(1) **The Writing Center.**
GMU's Writing Center at the Arlington Campus (Original Building, Room 311) offers both online and in-person services to aid you throughout the writing process. At the center, you'll find everything from discipline-specific writing resources and brainstorming help to more in-depth, one-on-one time with tutors from a range of disciplines and work experiences. Visit [http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/) to schedule an appointment or to sign up for the Online Writing Lab (OWL) services.

(2) **The SPP Plagiarism Policy.**
The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable. Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.
The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. (http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html)

(3) **Academic Accommodation for a Disability**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

(4) **Student Journal: New Voices in Public Policy**

I will consider nominating the very best papers in this course for publication in New Voices in Public Policy. New Voices is a student- and faculty-reviewed journal that shares SPP’s finest student work with the rest of the world.

(5) **Citations for Research Papers**

The purposes of scholarly citations are several:
1) To show the source for a direct quote or fact not commonly known.
2) To give credit for an idea to the author of a work
3) To show the reader that you are familiar with other scholarship on your topic or to indicate where further information or analysis can be found.
4) You may also use endnotes to explain something in the text or comment on the source. The intention is to give the reader enough information to find the source you are using so that he or she can see if you have quoted it correctly, interpreted it soundly, done justice to the author cited, or do further research on the topic in question themselves.

Format: use the standard *Chicago Manual of Style* format, also known as “Turabian” and also with guidance available on-line at http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/

EXAMPLES for FOOTNOTES or ENDNOTES:

Books:

- author, title (place of publication: publisher, date), page number(s).

  [Titles of books should be in italics or underlined.]

Example:

   After the first full citation, you may use a shortened version:
   e.g. 2. Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, page number(s).
Articles:
author, title, name of journal (volume, number), page number(s).
[Titles of articles should be enclosed in quotation marks, names of journals
underlined or in italics.]
Example:
1. Theodore J. Lowi, “The State in Political Science: How We Become What We Study,”
   After first full citation, you may use a shortened version:

Chapters in edited Books:
author of article, title of article, “in” editor of book, title of book (place and date of publication),
page numbers.
Example:
Presidency (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1999), pp. 23-36

Web Site Citations:
   In addition to author, title, etc, include the following information:
   Who put up the site, full URL, date of access.

Number the notes consecutively for the whole paper, with each note referring to the number in
the text with the number in superscript or parentheses. Endnote numbers should be placed at the
end of the sentence containing the information being cited. A bibliography of all the sources
used in the paper along with other useful sources may be useful or required.