THE IDEA OF COMMUNITY

Texts

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (Chicago, trans. Mansfield)
Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*
Michel Houellebecq, *The Elementary Particles*
Robert Bellah, et al, *Habits of the Heart*
Benjamin Barber, *Jihad v. McWorld*
Michael Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*
Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*
Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, *Random Family*
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance*

Moodle.Kenyon.edu Readings

Karl Marx, *On the Jewish Question* (excerpt)
Michael Walzer, “What Does It Mean To Be An American?”
Robert Putnam, “Bowling Alone”
Michael Walzer, “The Communitarian Critique of Liberalism”
Alisdair MacIntyre, “Is Patriotism a Virtue?”
Walter Berns, “On Patriotism”
Martha Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism”

Requirements

A short (6-8 page) paper will be due early in the semester; a longer (12-15 page) paper will be due at the end of the semester. Late papers will be penalized one grade increment per day. You are also responsible for four brief (2-3 page) “response” papers (details to follow). Regular attendance and active participation in the discussion of the assigned readings is expected and graded. More than one absence will automatically result in a deduction of your course grade.

Grading

Short paper (25%), long paper (50%), participation/attendance/response papers (25%).
Idea of Community: Reading Schedule

January 13 Film: “The Ice Storm”
A 2-3 page response paper will be due January 20.

20 Rousseau, *Social Contract* (Books I & II)
27 Rousseau, *Social Contract* (III.8, 12-15; IV.1-2, 7-8)

February 3 *Marx, On the Jewish Question* (excerpts)
*M*ichael Walzer, *What Does It Mean To Be An American?*
10 Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (Volume II, I.1-3, 5, 8-10, 20; II.1-17, 20; III. 8-13; IV.3, 6-8)
*Robert Putnam, “Bowling Alone”
17 Huxley, *Brave New World*
24 Michel Houellebecq, *The Elementary Particles*

Spring Break February 28-March 15

March 17 Robert Bellah, *Habits of the Heart* (Preface: xli-xliii; chapters 1-3, 6)
24 Benjamin Barber, *Jihad v. McWorld* (Intro. and chapters 5-9, 10, 14-15)
31 Michael Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*

April 7 Alisdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue* (Preface and chapters 2-3, 5-6, 9, 15, 17)
*Walzer, The Communitarian Critique of Liberalism*
14 *MacIntyre, “Is Patriotism a Virtue?”*
*Martha Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism”
21 LeBlanc, *Random Family*
28 Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance*

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