Political Science 4011
Politics, Bureaucracy, and Cultural Policy
Spring 2010
6:10pm-9:00pm Wednesday

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy
Office: 221 Stubbs
Hours: M-F 5:00-6:00 p.m., or by appointment.
Phone: 578-2533

Course Description

This course is designed to elucidate the process of public policymaking by an intensive study of cultural policy with reference to its theoretical constructs, the variety of public policies, and the special case of the United States. Support for the performing arts and museums are discussed as issues involving cultural identity, ideologies, and hegemony. Different models of cultural patronage internationally are evaluated. Furthermore, the importance of private, not for profit cultural institutions as a distinguishing characteristic of American cultural patronage is evaluated. Public support for the arts and culture in the United States has also been associated with recurring controversies that pit politics against aesthetics. Finally, arguments in support of public support for the arts and culture are discussed.

Required Books:

The following material constitutes the required readings for this course:

Davila, Arlene  
Sponsored Identities: Cultural Politics in Puerto Rico

Young, Stephen  
At Memory’s Edge: After Images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture

Waxman, Sharon  
Loot: The Battle Over the Stolen Treasures of the Ancient World

Dubin, Steven  
Displays of Power: Controversy in the American Museum

Requirements:

The following will be required from all students in the course:

1) Four required essays on assigned books: 1,000-1,200 words. 100 pts each (400 pts total)

2) A take home midterm consisting of questions from all lectures and films up until that point. Midterm exams will be distributed in class the week before they are due. Length suggested as between 2,000 and 2,200 words. (200 pts)

3) The final exam will be distributed at the last class meeting prior to their due dates, and is due at the regular class time the following Wednesday. Final exam will consist of questions regarding all lectures and films from the second half of the course. Suggested length: 2,000-2,200 words. (200 pts)
Required Essays

Essays and exams are due at the beginning of the class day as scheduled. Late work will be penalized at least a letter grade. The book essays should be 1,000-1,200 words in length with frequent in-text citations and topical subheading. The principled themes of the book should be discussed and conclude with an overall evaluation.

Midterm and Final Exams

Both the midterm and final exams will consist of questions concerning the lectures and movies we have viewed up until that point. It is recommended that your midterm and final exams lengths are between 2,000 - 2,200 words. HINT- It is advisable to take notes during the movies.

Class Participation/ Attendance

Participation is expected and should be informed by the quality, as distinct from the quantity, of the discussion. Since your presence in class is the sine qua non of a discussion, more than one absence will result in a reduction of one letter grade per each additional absence.

It is expected that the student will attend every class during the semester, having done the assigned readings. It is certainly understood that a student might miss a class for personal, family or health reasons. If it is anticipated that more than one class will be missed, it would be recommended that you discuss this with me. It is better to have a discussion with me in advance of any extended absences rather than incur a letter grade reduction due to insufficient attendance. In short, please be a good citizen about attendance.

The class begins at 6:10 as noted in the schedule, and ends at 9:00. There will be a 10-minute break from 7:25 to 7:35 (someone should remind me of this in class). Again, be a good citizen about arriving on time and staying the duration of the class. If you need to leave early, speak with the instructor; it is understood that occasionally people come unavoidably late, especially due to the Darwinian parking situation. Again, please be a good citizen about your attendance and punctuality.

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<tr>
<th>Point Distribution</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>A 800-730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>B 729-660</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>C 559-490</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Part I: Forms of Cultural Patronage

Session 1. Spiritual Culture: Propagation of the Faith

January 20  Civilization (Video, 50 minutes). Lord Clark. “Grandeur and Obedience”

“Apring Heresy: Papal Patronage and Cultural Policy in the Post-Tridentine Church”

Session 2. Culture and Identity

January 27  Siqueiros: Artist and Warrior (Video, 60 minutes)

Kevin V. Mulcahy, “Coloniality, Identity, and Cultural Policy.”

Discussion: Why is it important for the “colonized” to reclaim their culture?

Session 3. Cultural Imperialism

February 3  Kevin V. Mulcahy, “Political Sovereignty and Cultural Imperialism: U.S.-Canadian Cultural Relations.”

Discussion: What are the consequences of “asymmetrical” cultural relations?

The Frescoes of Diego Rivera (Video, 35 minutes)

Session 4. Essay and Presentations

February 10  Frida (Movie 123 minutes)

Arlene Davilla, Sponsored Identity: Cultural Policy in Puerto Rico

Essay Topic: What is Puerto Rican cultural identity? How is cultural nationalism related to political nationalism? What is the role of the IPR? What are the problems of a commercialized culture?
Session 5. **Totalitarian Cultural Policy I**

**February 17:** “Command Culture: Romantic Aryanism and Socialist Realism”

Discussion: What is the role of ideology in both National Socialist/Stalinist aesthetics?

*The Architecture of Doom* (Video: 120 Minutes)

Session 6. **Totalitarian Cultural Policy II**

**February 24**

The Aryan Romanticism and Socialist Realism Compared

*Degenerate Art* (Video, 60 minutes)

Session 7. **Essay and Presentations**

**March 3**

*Triumph of the Will* (Video, 45 minutes)

Stephen Young, *At Memory’s Edge: After Images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture*.

Essay Topic: What is the role of the arts in sustaining “memory”? Is it possible to represent the “unthinkable”?

Session 8. **Midterm Due**

**March 10**

**Take Home Midterm Exams Due**

*The Wonderful-Horrible Life of Lenny Riefenstahl* (Video, 180 minutes)
Part II: Types of Cultural Politics

Session 9. Democratic Cultural Policy


Discussion: What are the pros and cons of each model? Is there a preferred model of cultural patronage?

Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance (Video, 60 minutes)

Session 10. Privatization: Is the U.S. Model Replicable/Recommendable?


Discussion: What are the prospects and perils of privatized patronage?”

Sketches of Frank Gehry (documentary 84 minutes)

Session 11. The Limits of Privatization

March 31     Kevin V. Mulcahy “Privatized Culture in Bad Times: Evaluating the American System of Cultural Patronage

Discussion: What should a cultural institution do in hard times?

Mapplethorpe Controversy. Dirty Pictures (HBO Movie, 104

April 7     Spring Break

Session 12. Essay and Presentations

April 14     Sharon Waxman, Loot: The Battle over the Stolen Treasures of the Ancient World

Essay Topic: Describe the social and political context through which a work of art is appropriated by another culture or institution. Are institutions responsible to return such works? Under what circumstances is this the case?

The Rape of Europa (documentary 117 minutes)
Session 13.  
**Culture As A Way of Life**

April 21

Hurricane Katrina and the Creole Culture of New Orleans

"Acadiana and the Cajun Cultural Landscape"

*Artists at Work: The WPA* (Video, 30 minutes)

Session 14.  
**Essays and Presentations**

April 28

Steven Dubin, “Displays of Power”

Essay Topic 4: Evaluate why museums are places of cultural contestation. Discuss the particular museum controversy assigned.

*Pollock* (Movie, 122 minutes)

Session 15.  
**What is Cultural Policy?**

May 5

Kevin V. Mulcahy, “Cultural Policy: Definitions and Theoretical Approaches.”

Discussion: What would your cultural policy look like?

*Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision* (video, 90 minutes)

Session 16.  
**Take Home Final Due in Class**

May 12

Mandatory Discussion will Follow