

REVISED 8/24/09

Cultural Capital and Development

DHP P224

Seminar Syllabus: Fall Semester 2009

Wednesdays, 3:20-5:20 pm, Cabot 102

Lawrence Harrison and Miguel Basáñez

Cultural Change Institute, 132 Curtis Street

Office phone: 7-3034; Home phone: 508-693-2751

e-mail: Lawrence.Harrison@tufts.edu, harrison@vineyard.net,
m.basanez@tufts.edu

Basic reference books:

Lawrence Harrison, *The Central Liberal Truth* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006)

Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington, eds., *Culture Matters* (New York: Basic Books, 2000; paperback 2001)

Optional reference books:

Lawrence Harrison and Jerome Kagan, eds., *Developing Cultures: Essays on Cultural Change* (New York and London: Routledge, 2006)

Lawrence Harrison and Peter Berger, eds., *Developing Cultures: Case Studies* (New York and London: Routledge, 2006)

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy* (Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Seminar 1: Introduction (Wednesday, September 9)

Participants will be asked to speak briefly about their backgrounds and why they chose to participate in the seminar. We will discuss what is meant by "development" and "progress" with particular reference to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (**Blackboard**). Using contrasts between the Nordic countries and Islamic countries, we will then try to identify the array of factors that may help explain variations in governance, levels of prosperity, and degrees of social justice. Among the factors: geography, including climate and resource endowment; the vagaries of history; colonialism, imperialism, and dependency; and institutions and policies--as well as cultural values and attitudes. Then an overview of the evolution of thinking about culture's role in development.

Finally, discussion of term papers and preparation/discussion of sketches.

Seminar 2: Defining Cultural Capital (Wednesday, September 16)

Defining what we mean by "culture" and "cultural capital" in the development context is an indispensable first step. (We will be talking about cultural values, beliefs, and attitudes that influence behavior, not high culture or popular culture.) We will first turn to a typology of progress-prone and progress-resistant cultures and then discuss the possible

relationship between the progress-resistant value system and (1) Africa's disappointing progress, and (2) the behavior of elite groups in Latin America.

Required reading:

Chapter 2, *The Central Liberal Truth*
Daniel Etounga-Manguelle, "Does Africa Need a Cultural Adjustment Program" in *Culture Matters*, Chapter 6
Carlos Alberto Montaner, "Culture and the Behavior of Elites in Latin America" in *Culture Matters*, Chapter 5

Optional Reading:

Geert Hofstede, *Culture's Consequences* (Thousand Oaks CA: Sage Publications, 2001), Chapter 1
Talcott Parsons, *The Social System* (Glencoe, IL: The Free Press, 1951)
Florence Kluckhohn, *Variations in Value Orientations* (Evanston IL, Elmsford NY: Row. Peterson and Company, 1961), pp. 10-20
Thomas Friedman, *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005), pp. 324-29.
Lawrence Harrison, *Underdevelopment Is a State of Mind* (Lanham MD, New York, and Oxford: Madison Books, 1985, 2000), pp. 1-9

Seminar 3: Tocqueville and Weber (September 23)

The discussion will focus on two seminal books that have profoundly influenced subsequent thinking about the role of culture in political and economic development: Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, in which he identifies culture (he refers to "habits, opinions, mores") as the most important determinant of how politics in a society actually work; and Weber's *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* in which he discusses the Calvinist precepts that promote the spirit of capitalism and the Protestant virtues, personified by Ben Franklin.

The session will be led by Prof. Peter Berger of Boston University.

Required reading:

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1988), Chapter 9--"The Main Causes Tending to Maintain a Democratic Republic in the United States"
Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (London and New York: Routledge, 1992)

Optional reading:

Ronald Inglehart, "Culture and Democracy," in *Culture Matters*, Chapter 7
Seymour Martin Lipset and Gabriel Salman Lenz, "Corruption, Culture, and Markets" in *Culture Matters*, Chapter 9
Charles de Secondat de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press: 1989), Book 19
Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, *The Civic Culture* (Boston and Toronto: Little Brown and Company, 1963)

Seminar 4: Cultural Transmission and Change: Child Rearing (September 30)

Child rearing is the first, and crucially important, instrument of cultural transmission. Child-rearing practices develop a powerful momentum over the generations--most of us are strongly influenced by our own experience as children when it comes time to raise our own children. But modifications to traditional child-rearing practices may offer a key instrument for promoting cultural change.

The discussion will be led by Prof. Jerome Kagan of Harvard.

Required reading:

Harrison and Kagan, *Developing Cultures: Essays on Cultural Change* (**all on Blackboard**):

Jerome Kagan, "Cultural Values and the Family," Chapter 1

Luis Diego Herrera Amighetti, "Parenting Practices in Latin America and Governance: The Case of Costa Rica," Chapter 2

Sharon Lynn Kagan and Amy Lowenstein, "Cultural Values and Parenting Education," Chapter 3

Description of parenting pilot projects: Costa Rica and East Boston (**on Blackboard**)

Seminar 5: Religions and Religious Reform (October 7)

Religion is a principal source of values, beliefs, and attitudes. Some religions or ethical codes, e.g., Judaism, Confucianism, Protestantism, are more promoting of progress than others, e.g., Islam, Buddhism, Catholicism—see the analysis of the performance of 117 countries broken down into religious groupings (Chapter 4, *The Central Liberal Truth*).

Prof. Robert Hefner, Director of Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, will lead the discussion.

Required reading:

Harrison, *The Central Liberal Truth*, Chapter 4, "Religions and Progress"

Harrison and Huntington, *Culture Matters*:

Robert Edgerton, "Traditional Beliefs and Practices--Are Some Better than Others?," Chapter 10

Seminar 6: Education Reform (October 14)

Education offers a key tool for modernizing traditional values, beliefs, and attitudes. Lagging countries, for example in Africa and Latin America, often do not attach sufficiently high priority to education to assure the viability of democracy, social justice, and prosperity. Reform thus must address the priority of education as well as professional shortcomings.

Prof. Fernando Reimers of the Harvard Graduate School of Education will lead the discussion.

Required reading:

Harrison and Kagan, *Developing Cultures: Essays on Cultural Change* (**all on Blackboard**):

Thomas Lickona, "Character Education," Chapter 4

Richard Niemi and Steven Finkel, "Civic Education," Chapter 5

Fernando Reimers and Eleonora Villegas-Reimers, "Educating Democratic Citizens in Latin America," Chapter 6

Seminar 7: The Role of the Media (October 21)

At the outset of the 21st century, the media occupy an unprecedented position of prominence in the array of factors that shape culture. A century ago, newspapers and magazines monopolized the media. Today, most people devote substantially more time to television, the Internet, games, music, etc., which means that the media are vastly more powerful than they were a century ago.

The Seminar will have to consider both how the media influence values, beliefs, and attitudes, and what might be done to enhance the media's influence to strengthen cultural capital.

Reese Schonfeld, the first president of CNN and founder of the Food Network, will lead the session.

Required reading:

Harrison and Kagan, *Developing Cultures: Essays on Cultural Change* (**both on Blackboard**):

Carlos Alberto Montaner and Mariano Grondona, "Journalism and Values," Chapter 17

Reese Schonfeld, "The Global Battle for Cultural Domination," Chapter 18

Seminar 8: Culture and the Private Sector (October 28)

Culture shapes the behavior not only of government officials, academics, and the media. It also influences entrepreneurs, managers, financial experts, workers, and consultants. Indeed, subcultures are common in both public and private institutions.

Rob Kleinbaum will lead the discussion. As a founder of GM's Decision Support Center, Dr. Kleinbaum helped establish one of the leading internal consulting companies in the world and has continued to play a key role in its growth and development. He has worked as a coach on projects, as an advisor to the management team, and has helped develop, teach, and coach the adoption of new methodologies.

Required reading:

Rob Kleinbaum, "Retooling GM's Culture" (**on Blackboard**)

Seminar 9: Political Leadership, Legal Systems, and Cultural Change (November 4)

Several examples of cultural change involve leaders with a vision, for example, the Meiji leaders in Japan starting in 1868; Mustafa Kemal in Turkey starting in 1923; the Quebecois leaders of the "Silent Revolution" of the 1960s.

Former governor of Colorado Richard Lamm and Prof. Michael Glennon of the Fletcher School will lead this session.

Required reading:

Harrison and Kagan, *Developing Cultures: Essays on Cultural Change* (**on Blackboard**):

Richard Lamm, "Public Policy and Culture," Chapter 19

Harrison and Berger, *Developing Cultures: Case Studies* (**on Blackboard**)

Stephen R. Lewis, Jr., "Explaining Botswana's Success"

Octavio Sánchez Barrientos, "Culture And Legal Dogmatism In An Era of Immaterial Wealth: The Case Of Latin America" Essay prepared for October 2008 CCI conference (**on Blackboard**)

Seminar 10: Development Assistance and Cultural Change (November 18)

What role does development assistance have in cultural change? Until now, cultural change has rarely been addressed by development assistance institutions, the UNDP "Arab Human Development Reports" being a major exception. But there is increasing awareness of the influence of culture, and of the need for cultural change.

Former Administrator of the US Agency for International Development Andrew Natsios will lead the session.

Required reading:

Harrison and Kagan, *Developing Cultures: Essays on Cultural Change* (**on Blackboard**):

James W. Fox, "Donor Projects and Culture Change," Chapter 20

Mitchell A. Seligson, "Can Social Capital Be Constructed?," Chap. 21

UNDP, *Arab Human Development Report 2002*

Sessions 11-13: Student Presentations (November 25, December 2, December 9); term papers due Wednesday, December 16