

Political Science 344U  
Stanford University  
Fall Quarter, 2016  
Thursdays 10:30AM to 1:20PM

## **Political Culture**

Vasiliki Fouka and David Laitin, Instructors

Purposes of the Course: The study of the complex concept of “culture” has had a recent resurgence in the social sciences. This course is designed to introduce this literature. It does so by asking two questions so that students can organize the many research findings in regard to culture. First we ask “what is culture” focusing on its sources, its persistence, its transmission, its enforcement, and its measurement. Second we ask “what are its implications”, now focusing on economic growth, public goods, democracy and nationalism.

Requirements of the Course: Students will be expected to read broadly for each week’s readings, and to participate in seminar discussions of the readings. For three of the weeks, students will be asked to complete a problem set that will be posted a week before the assignment is due and answers will need to be posted on the Canvas website by 6PM on Wednesday evenings before class. Those problem sets, participation in seminar discussions, and a take-home final examination on the readings and discussions will be the basis for the course grade.

Prerequisites for the Course: There are no required courses, but the assignments will require some knowledge of regression analysis and statistical software.

Books for Purchase:

Michael Chwe Rational Ritual 0691114714  
Robert Ellickson Order Without Law 0674641698  
Robert Putnam Making Democracy Work 06910373888  
Max Weber The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism 9780140439212

[Notes for accessing the reading: all books will be put on course reserve in the library; books designated for purchase are ones that will be useful for permanent scholarly libraries; all articles will be available on the web or uploaded to the Canvas site.]

Weekly Assignments: an \* implies a required reading for discussion.

## Part I: What is Culture?

### Week 1: Colloquial and Academic Understandings of Culture

\* Nisbett, Richard. 2003. *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently... and why*. New York: The Free Press. Introduction, Chapters 1, 6.

\* Haidt, Jonathan. 2012. *The Righteous Mind*. New York: Pantheon Books. Chapter 1.

\* Ensminger, Jean, and Joseph Henrich, eds. 2014. *Experimenting with Social Norms: Fairness and Punishment in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Fairness and Punishment in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. New York, New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Chapter 2. [<http://jee.caltech.edu/files/2015/11/Henrich-and-Ensminger-Ch.2-2014.pdf>]

\* Jenna Bednar and Scott Page (February 2007) "Can game(s) theory explain culture? The emergence of cultural behavior within multiple games" *Rationality and Society* 19(1): 65-98

Herrmann, B., Thoeni, C. and Gaechter, S. 2008. "Antisocial Punishment Across Societies." *Science*. 319(5868), 1362-1367.

Boyd, Robert and Peter J. Richerson. 1985. *Culture and the Evolutionary Process*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1, 3.

Gintis, Herbert. 1986. *The Bounds of Reason*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 12.

### Week 2: Where Does Culture Come From?

\* Nisbett, Richard. 2003. *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently... and why*. New York: The Free Press. Chapter 2.

\* Talhelm, T., et al. "Large-scale Psychological Differences within China Explained by Rice Versus Wheat Agriculture." *Science*. 344.6184 (2014): 603-608.

\* Alesina, Alberto, Giuliano, Paola and Nunn, Nathan. 2013. "On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128(2), 469–530.

Durante, Ruben. 2010. "Risk, Cooperation and the Economic Origins of Social Trust: An Empirical Investigation," mimeo, Sciences Po.

Fogli, Alessandra and Veldkamp, Laura. 2014. "Germs, Social Networks and Growth," mimeo, New York University.

\* Michalopoulos, Stelios. 2012. "The Origins of Ethnolinguistic Diversity," *American Economic Review*, 102(4): 1508-39.

\* Nunn, Nathan and Leonard Wantchekon. 2011. "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa." *American Economic Review*, 101(7):3221-52.

\* Boyd and Richerson, *Culture and the Evolutionary Process*. Chapter 8.

Rogers, A. 1989. "Does Biology Constrain Culture?" *American Anthropologist* 90, 819—831.

\* Sugden, Robert. "Spontaneous Order" in Mark Casson (ed.), *Culture, Social Norms and Economics* vol. 2, 90-102.

### **Week 3: Cultural Persistence and Change**

\* Cohen, D., Nisbett, R. E., Bowdle, B. F., & Schwarz, N. 1996. "Insult, Aggression, and the Southern Culture of Honor: An "Experimental Ethnography."" *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 70(5), 945.

Grosjean, Pauline. 2014. "A History of Violence: The Culture of Honor and Homicide in the US South." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 12.5: 1285-1316.

\* Voigtlander, Nico and Voth, Hans-Joachim. 2012. "Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127(3), 1339–1392.

\* Acharya, Avidit, Blackwell, Matthew and Sen, Maya. 2016. "The Political Legacy of American Slavery," *Journal of Politics* 78(3), pp. 621-641.

Becker, Sascha O., Boeckh, Katrin, Hainz, Christa and Woessmann, Ludger. 2015. "The Empire is Dead, Long Live the Empire! Long-Run Persistence of Trust and Corruption in the Bureaucracy," *The Economic Journal* 126(590), pp. 40-74.

Alesina, Alberto and Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln. 2007. "Goodbye Lenin (or Not?): The Effect of Communism on People's Preferences," *American Economic Review*, 97(4):1507-1528.

Fernandez, Raquel and Fogli, Alessandra. 2009. "Culture: An Empirical Investigation of Beliefs, Work and Fertility," *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 1(1), 146–177.

\* Mackie, Gerry. 1996. "Ending Footbinding and Infibulation: A Convention Account." *American Sociological Review*, 999-1017.

\* Efferson, Charles, et al. 2015. "Female Genital Cutting is not a Social Coordination Norm." *Science* 349.6255: 1446-1447.

\* Axelrod, Robert. 1997. "Disseminating Culture," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, pp. 203-26.

Guiso, Luigi, Sapienza, Paola and Zingales, Luigi. 2007. "Social Capital as Good Culture," NBER Working Paper 13712.

\* Tabellini, Guido. 2008. "The Scope of Cooperation: Values and Incentives," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(3), 905-950.

#### **Week 4: Cultural Enforcement**

**An assignment for class in week 4 will be posted after class in week 3.**

\* Robert Ellickson, *Order Without Law*, Chapters 1-6, 11-13.

Fenno, Richard. 1966. *The Power of the Purse*. Boston, Little, Brown. Chapter 2.

\* McCubbins, Matthew and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols vs. Fire Alarms," *American Journal of Political Science*, 165-179. [<http://www.jstor.org/view/00925853/di975162/97p02667/0>]

\* Heckathorn, Douglas. 1989. "Collective Action and the Second-Order Free-Rider Problem" in *Rationality & Society* 1(1), pp. 78-100.

\* Elster, Jon. 1989. *The Cement of Society: A Study of Social Order*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.

Barry Weingast, letter to D. Laitin June 9, 2013, on Adam Smith's approach to enforcement of norms

#### **Week 5: Cultural Transmission**

\* Bisin, Alberto and Verdier, Thierry. 2011. "The Economics of Cultural Transmission and Socialization," in Benhabib, Jess and Bisin, Alberto and Jackson Matthew O. (eds.) *The Handbook of Social Economics Vol. 1A*, Elsevier, Sections 2.2 and 3.4.

- Doepke, Matthias and Zilibotti, Fabrizio. 2008. "Occupational Choice and the Spirit of Capitalism," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(2), 747–793.
- Cesarini, David, Christopher T. Dawes, James H. Fowler, Magnus Johannesson, and Paul Lichtenstein. 2008. "Heritability of Cooperative Behavior in the Trust Game," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 105: 3721–3726.
- Cesarini, David, Christopher T. Dawes, Magnus Johannesson, Paul Lichtenstein and Bjorn Wallace. 2009. "Genetic Variation in Preferences for Giving and Risk Taking," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124 (2): 809–842.
- Sacerdote, Bruce. 2007. "How Large are the Effects from Changes in Family Environment? A Study of Korean American Adoptees," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 119–157.
- Dohmen, T., Falk, A., Huffman, D. and Sunde, U. 2012. "The Intergenerational Transmission of Risk and Trust Attitudes," *Review of Economic Studies*, 79(2): 645–677.
- Fernández, R., Fogli, A., and Olivetti, C. 2004. "Mothers and Sons: Preference Formation and Female Labor Force Dynamics," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124: 1249–1299.
- Cantoni, D., Chen, Y., Yang, D. Y., Yuchtman, N., and Zhang, Y. J. 2015. *Curriculum and Ideology*, *Journal of Political Economy* (forthcoming).  
[[http://davidecantoni.net/pdfs/curriculum\\_draft\\_20151007.pdf](http://davidecantoni.net/pdfs/curriculum_draft_20151007.pdf)]

## **Week 6: The Measurement of Culture**

- \* Fernández, R. 2010. "Does Culture Matter?" in Benhabib, Jess and Bisin, Alberto and Jackson Matthew O. (eds.) *The Handbook of Social Economics Vol. 1A*, Elsevier.
- \* Bertrand, M., and Mullainathan, S. 2001. "Do People Mean What They Say? Implications for subjective survey data," *The American Economic Review*, 91(2), 67-72.
- Becker, A., Dohmen, T., Enke, B., Falk, A., Huffman, D. and Sunde U. 2015. "The Nature and Predictive Power of Preferences: Global Evidence" IZA Discussion Paper No. 9504. [<http://ftp.iza.org/dp9504.pdf>]
- \* Glaeser, E., L. D. S. J. and Souter, C. 2000. "Measuring Trust," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115:811–846.
- Karlan, D. 2005. "Using Experimental Economics to Measure Social Capital and Predict Financial Decisions," *American Economic Review*, 20:1688–1699.

Oosterbeek, H., Sloof, R., and Van De Kuilen, G.. 2004. "Cultural Differences in Ultimatum Game Experiments: Evidence from a Meta-analysis," *Experimental Economics*, 7(2), 171-188.

Fryer, Roland G. and Levitt, Steven D. 2004. "The Causes and Consequences of Distinctively Black Names," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 119(3), 767–805.

\* Abramitzky, Ran, Boustan, Leah and Eriksson Catherine. 2016. "Cultural Assimilation in the Age of Mass Migration," mimeo, Stanford University.

\* Chen, M. K. 2013. "The Effect of Language on Economic Behavior: Evidence from Savings Rates, Health Behaviors, and Retirement Assets," *American Economic Review* 103(2), 690-731.

Falck, O., Heblich, S., Lameli, A. and Südekum, J. 2012. "Dialects, Cultural Identity, and Economic Exchange", *Journal of Urban Economics* 72 (2-3), 225-239.

Efferson, Charles, et al. "Female Genital Cutting is not a Social Coordination Norm." *Science* 349.6255 (2015): 1446-1447.

## **Part II: Implications of Culture**

### **Week 7: Economic Growth**

**An assignment for class in week 7 will be posted after class in week 6.**

\* Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Capitalist Spirit*.

Cantoni, D. 2015. "The Economic Effects of the Protestant Reformation: Testing the Weber Hypothesis in the German Lands," *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 13(4), 561-598.

Becker, S. O., and Woessmann, L. 2009. "Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 531-596.

\* Tabellini, Guido. 2010. "Culture and Institutions: Economic Development in the Regions of Europe," *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 8(4): 677-716. [<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1542-4774.2010.tb00537.x/pdf>]

\* Guiso, L., Sapienza, P. and Zingales, L. 2006. "Does Culture Affect Economic Outcomes?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(2): 23 - 48.

Algan Y. and Cahuc P. 2010. "Inherited Trust and Growth," *American Economic Review* 110 (5): 2060–2092.

\* Gorodnichenko, Y., and Roland, G. 2011. "Which Dimensions of Culture matter for Long-run Growth?" *American Economic Review*, 101(3), 492-498.

Gorodnichenko, Y., and Roland, G. 2010. "Culture, Institutions and the Wealth of Nations," NBER Working Paper No. w16368.

\* Campante, Filipe and Yanagizawa, David. 2015 "Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan," 130(2), pp.615–658.  
[<http://qje.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/01/28/qje.qjv002.full.pdf+html>]

## **Week 8: Coordination and Public Goods**

**An assignment for class in week 8 will be posted after class in week 7.**

### **Coordination**

\* Michael Chwe *Rational Ritual*.

\* Patel, David. 2007. *Islam, Information, and Social Order: The Strategic Role of Religion in Muslim Societies*, Ph.D. Dissertation, Stanford University, Chapters 1-2.

### **Public Goods Provision**

\* Miguel, E. and Mary Kay Gugerty. 2005. "Ethnic Diversity, Social Sanctions, and Public Goods in Kenya," *Journal of Public Economics* 89:325-68.

\* Putnam, Robert. 2007. "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century," *Scandinavian Political Studies*, Vol. 30 – No. 2.

Algan, Yann, Hémet, Camille and Laitin, David (2016) "Diversity and Public Goods in a Republican Setting," *Journal of Political Economy*.

[<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/jpe/0/0>]

\* Shayo, Moses. 2009. "A Model of Social Identity with an Application to Political Economy: Nation, Class, and Redistribution," *American Political Science Review*, 103(02), 147-174.

## **Week 9: Good Institutions**

### **Community Institutions**

\* Greif, Avner. "Cultural Beliefs and the Organization of Society: A Historical and Theoretical Reflection on Collectivist and Individualist Societies," *Journal of Political Economy*, 102 (5): 912–950.

\* Jha, Saumitra. 2013. "Trade, Institutions and Ethnic Tolerance: Evidence from S. Asia," *American Political Science Review*, 107(04), 806-832.

Lowes S, Nunn N, Robinson J, Weigel J. 2016. "The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom." mimeo, Harvard University.

### **Democracy**

\* Robert Putnam Making Democracy Work, Chapters 1, 4-5.

Weingast, Barry. 1997. "Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law," *American Political Science Review*, 91(02), 245-263.

\* Woodberry, Robert D. 2012. "The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy," *American Political Science Review*, 106(02), 244-274.

### **Redistribution**

Benabou, R., and Tirole, J.. 2005. "Belief in a Just World and Redistributive Politics," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121(2), 699–746.

Alesina, A., and Angeletos, G. M.. 2003. 'Fairness and Redistribution', *American Economic Review*, 95(4), 960–980.

\* Hainmueller, J. and Hangartner, D. "Who Gets a Swiss Passport? A Natural Experiment in Immigrant Discrimination," *American Political Science Review*, 107(01), 159-187.

Kasara, Kimuli. 2007. "Tax Me if you Can: Ethnic Geography, Democracy and Taxation of Agriculture in Africa," *American Political Science Review*, 2007, 101(2): 159-72.

\* Franck, Raphaël and Rainer, Iliia. 2012. "Does the Leader's Ethnicity Matter?: Ethnic Favoritism, Education, and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa," *American Political Science Review*, 106(02), 294-325.



Posner, Daniel and Kramon, Eric. 2011. "Who Benefits from Distributive Politics? How the Outcome One Studies Affects the Answer One Gets," MIT Political Science Department Research Paper No. 2011-9.

Adida, Claire, Laitin, David and Valfort, Marie-Anne. "Identifying Barriers to Muslim Integration in France," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 107(52), 22384-22390.

### **Week 10: Building National Communities**

Armstrong, John. 1982. *Nations before Nationalism*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. pp. 3-7, 14-53

\* Gellner, Ernest. 1964. *Thought and Change*. London, Weidenfeld and Nicholson. Chapter 7.

Weber, Eugen. 1976. *Peasants into Frenchmen*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapters 6, 27, 29.

\* Laitin, David. 1995. "Marginality: A Micro Perspective" in *Rationality and Society*, pp. 31-57.

\* Fouka, Vicky. 2015. "Backlash: The Unintended Effects of Language Prohibition in US Schools after World War I," mimeo, Stanford University.  
[<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B14lb5A63-xkTDRxVU9kYTBTMHM/view?pli=1>]