

**UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO AND ST PAUL'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**WINTER TERM 2019**

**INDEV 300**

**CULTURE AND ETHICS**

**Dr Julia Seirlis**

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**STP 206**

**519 885 1465 ext 222**

Lectures:	Tuesdays and Thursdays	10-11.20am
Room:	STP 201 (Alumni Hall)	
Consultation times:	Tuesdays and Thursdays	11.30am-12.30pm

### **Introduction**

This course examines the politics and politicization of human differences, and the politics and politicization of “culture”. It explores how and why differences are established, and how and why those differences can result in controversy, conflict and violence. It asks: once we know the how and why, what do we do next? What constitutes an ethical judgement or action? Is the problem culture – or how culture is defined and invoked?

This course aims to sharpen students’ abilities to:

- present, defend and rebut an argument
- understand and argue issues from multiple perspectives
- understand the politics and consequences of a particular argument
- understand the connections between ethics, the law, official policies and every-day life
- advocate and lobby

### **Readings**

Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are on LEARN. Track down the others yourselves through the library or the links included in the outline.

## Assignments

	Percentage of Course Mark	Due Date and Time
Position Paper 1	15%	11.59pm 22 <sup>nd</sup> January
Group Presentation	10%	14 <sup>th</sup> February (in class)
Position Paper 2	20%	11.59pm 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Position Paper 3	25%	11.59pm 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Test	5%	4 <sup>th</sup> April (in class)
Long Essay	25%	TBA

Please submit your assignments to the relevant DropBox on LEARN.

**Students must complete all assignments and essays in order to pass this course.**

Late assignments or essays will be accepted for **TWO** days following the due date and time at a penalty of **5% PER DAY**. Anything submitted after this will not be accepted **UNLESS** students can provide a formal doctor's note according to the University's regulations.

Unclaimed assignments will be retained for one month after term grades become official in Quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's [confidential shredding procedures](#).

Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See: <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/guidelines-instructors> for more information

## Part 1 Framing the Debates

Weeks 1-2 Universalism v Relativism



Price A 2002 "Cultural Relativism, Legal Anthropology and Human Rights"

<http://culturesocietypraxis.org/index.php/csp/article/viewFile/4/4>

Rosaldo R 2011 "Of Headhunters and Soldiers: Separating Cultural and Ethical Relativism"

<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/iie/v11n1/relativism.html>

Shweder R A 2000 "Moral Maps, 'First World Conceits' and the New Evangelists in Harrison, L and Huntington, S (eds) *Culture Matters* New York: Basic Books

<https://humdev.sites.uchicago.edu/sites/humdev.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shweder/2000--Moral%20Maps%20First%20World%20Conceits'%20and%20the%20New%20Evangelists.PDF>

Zechenter E 1997 "In the Name of Culture: Cultural Relativism and the Abuse of the Individual"

<http://www.class.uh.edu/faculty/tsommers/moral%20diversity/cultural%20relativism%20abuse%20of%20individual.pdf>

### Position Paper 1

Agree OR disagree with the proposition that cultural relativism excuses unacceptable practices.

**MINIMUM** 1,300 words

**MINIMUM** three readings from this unit

**FOUR** main points – use headings

Weeks 3-4 Civilizational Discourses



<https://apjjf.org/2015/13/27/Ellen-Sebring/4339.html>

Graeber D 2007 “There Never was a West” in *Possibilities: Essays on Hierarchy, Rebellion and Desire*, AK Press <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/david-graeber-there-never-was-a-west>

Huntington, S 1993 “The Clash of Civilizations”, *Foreign Affairs*  
[http://www.bintjbeil.com/articles/en/d\\_huntington.html](http://www.bintjbeil.com/articles/en/d_huntington.html)

Irvine J T & Gal S 2000 “Language Ideology and Linguistic Differentiation” in Kroskrity P V (eds) *Regimes of Language: Ideologies, Politics and Identities*, Santa Fe: School of American Research Press  
<http://www.stanford.edu/~eckert/PDF/IrvineGal2000.pdf>

Tsing, A L 2004 “Introduction”, *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*, Princeton: Princeton University Press <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/i7885.html>

## Part 2            The Case Studies

### Weeks 5-6    Legislating Culture

Albertyn C 2011 “‘The Stubborn Persistence of Patriarchy?’ Gender Equality and Cultural Diversity in South Africa” *Constitutional Court Review* 2

[http://www.pulp.up.ac.za/pdf/2011\\_03/2011\\_03\\_f\\_sec2\\_1.pdf](http://www.pulp.up.ac.za/pdf/2011_03/2011_03_f_sec2_1.pdf)

\*Mamdani M 1996 “Decentralised Despotism”, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*, Kampala: Fountain Publishers

Nhlapo, T 2017 “Customary Law in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Constitutional Confrontations in Culture, Gender and ‘Living Law’”, *South African Journal on Human Rights* 33(1)

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02587203.2017.1303900>

Rautenbach C 2010 “Deep Legal Pluralism in South Africa: Judicial Accommodation of Non-State Law” *Journal of Legal Pluralism* No. 60 <http://commission-on-legal-pluralism.com/volumes/60/rautenbach-art.pdf>

Sibanda S 2010 “When is the Past not the Past? Reflections on Customary Law under South Africa’s Constitutional Dispensation” <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/17/3sibanda.pdf>

### **In-Class Group Presentation: The Power of Satire**

Design a satirical government or NGO campaign that EITHER bans culture OR makes it compulsory.

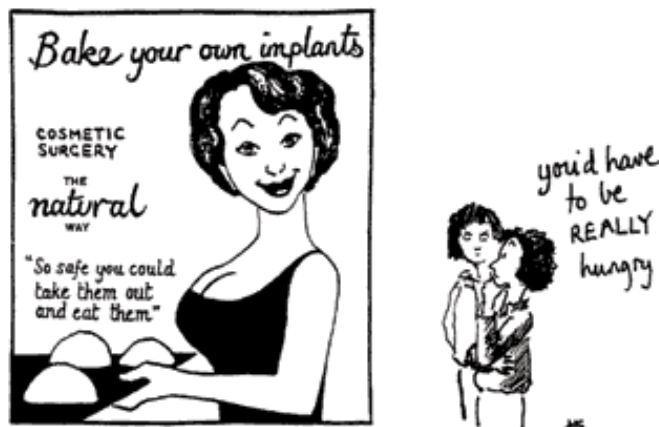
You choose which government or NGO.

5 min

20 slides on auto-advance

Reference **FOUR** readings from weeks 3-6

Weeks 7-8 Cutting the Body



<http://www.jackyfleming.co.uk/cartoons/nggallery/cartoons/postcards>

Boddy, J 2008 “Legislating against Culture: Efforts to End Pharaonic Circumcision in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan”, *The Finnish Anthropology Society* 33 (1)

\*Edmonds, A 2011 “‘Almost Invisible Scars’: Medical Tourism to Brazil”, *Signs*, 36 (2)

Huss-Ashmore, R “The Real Me: Therapeutic Narrative in Cosmetic Surgery”  
[https://www.penn.museum/sites/body\\_modification/](https://www.penn.museum/sites/body_modification/)

Lyons, H 2007 “Genital Cutting: The Past and Present of a Polythetic Category”, *Africa Today*, 53 (4)

Silverman, E 2004 “Anthropology and Circumcision”, *Annual Review of Anthropology* 33  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/39577598/Anthropology-and-Circumcision>

**Position Paper 2**

Agree OR disagree with **EITHER** the proposition that plastic surgery should be banned **OR** that genital cutting should be banned.

You must refer to **at least TWO** readings from this unit.

**MINIMUM** 1,400 words

**FOUR** main points – use headings

Weeks 9-10 Culture, Medicine and Bioethics

Beck, D 2015 “Between Relativism and Imperialism: Navigating Moral Diversity in Cross-Cultural Bioethics”, *Developing World Bioethics* 15(3)

\*Culhane, D 1987 “Introduction” and “The Way It’s Always Been Around Here”, *An Error in Judgement: The Politics of Medical Care in an Indian/ White Community*, Vancouver: Talon Books

Lock M & Scheper-Hughes N 1987 “A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology”, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1 (1) [http://www.iupui.edu/~womrel/Rel%26HealingReadings/Scheper-Hughes\\_MindfulBody.pdf](http://www.iupui.edu/~womrel/Rel%26HealingReadings/Scheper-Hughes_MindfulBody.pdf)

Macklin, R 2016 [1999] “The Doctor–Patient Relationship in Different Cultures,” in Kuhse, H, Schüklenk, U & Singer P (eds) *Bioethics: An Anthology*, John Wiley & Sons  
<http://belmont.bme.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/377/2018/02/3-The-Doctor%E2%80%93Patient-Relationship-in-Different-Cultures.pdf>

**Position Paper 3**

Find a recent news story from between 2010 and 2018 involving a medical controversy. Using that story as your case study and with reference to at least **TWO** readings from this unit and at least **TWO** readings from weeks 1-4, write an essay to answer the following questions:

Should medicine pay attention to culture? Why? Why not? How?

**MINIMUM** 1,600 words

**FIVE** main points – use headings

Embed the link to the news story in your text

**Part 3**

Weeks 11-12 Review and Test

**Long Essay**

With reference to **at least FIVE** readings from the entire course, write an essay to answer the following question:

To what extent do you agree that controversies about culture are racist?

**MINIMUM** 1,800 words

**FIVE** main points

## University Policies

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

[www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the on-line tutorial at

<http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>

**Research Ethics:** Please also note that the ‘University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty which involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care (Office). The ethics review and clearance processes are intended to ensure that projects comply with the Office’s Guidelines for Research with Human Participants (Guidelines) as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g. confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.). If the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, the please contact the course instructor for guidance and see <http://iris.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/>

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

**Religious Observances:** Student needs to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline,

[www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties, check Guidelines for Assessment of Penalties, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm)

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 – (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals)

[www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)