

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE  
MULTICULTURALISM AND FUNDAMENTALISM

**Terms and concepts to know:**

Multiculturalism	Culture
Race	Ethnicity
Religion	Multiculturalism as hybridity
Cultural membership	Constitutional diversity
Overlapping consensus	Feminism vs. multiculturalism (Okin)
Fundamentalism (religious)	Fundamentalism (secular)
Fundamentalism and modernity	Huntington's 'Clash of Civilizations'
Islamic fundamentalism	American fundamentalism
Israeli fundamentalism (Zionism)	Fundamentalism and the State

**Study and discussion questions:**

1. Explain Kumar's use of Marxist analysis to describe 'political Islam.' Has promotion of political Islam by the United States negated Huntington's 'clash of civilizations' thesis?
2. Does treating people equally mean treating them in the same way? Can you think of situations in which cultural difference may be a legitimate basis for difference in treatment?
3. Is multiculturalism bad for women?
4. Identify the leading arguments against homosexual equality and gay marriage? What are Snyder's arguments against each of these positions? Do you agree that these antigay perspectives serve to uphold rigid gender roles or "neo-patriarchy"?
5. Examine Cohen's contention that America is still a patriarchy. What is the evidence he brings and do you find it compelling?
6. Read and analyze Shivani's arguments. She lists 6 'concerns' for liberals to think about before embracing multiculturalism. Write a one page summary of one of the concerns you agree or disagree with.
7. Is fundamentalism simply about religion? Is it an inherent part of the Islamic tradition?
8. How does the (liberal) media treat fundamentalism? Is it fair or do you believe that it is often sensationalized?
9. Do you agree with Hoffman and Graham that fundamentalism is essentially a modern phenomenon?

**Readings:**

Hoffman and Graham: Chapters 15 and 17.

**Video:** *Multiracial Identity*. A documentary film exploring the phenomenon of the US becoming a more multiracial society.