

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE  
STATES AND IDENTITY

**Terms and concepts to know:**

Assimilation	Liberationist
Autonomy	Multicultural integration
Centripetal approach	Nation
Civic nationalism	Nationalism
Consociationalism	Neutral state model
Constructivism	Political saliency
Cultural nationalism	Positive accommodation
Ethnic group	Primordialism
Jus sanguinis	Race
Jus soli	Social construction
Laïcité	

**Study and discussion questions:**

1. How and why do identity groups form and become politically salient?
2. How does the social construction of identity groups influence who has power?
3. What are the implications of identity groups' demands on the ideal of equal citizenship in the modern state?
4. What are the different political issues faced by different types of identity groups?
5. Explain the complicated relationship between headscarves in France and settler colonialism, secularism, and Islamophobia in France. Would the laws created there work in the U.S.? Why do think they would or would not?
6. Recent legislative bills in Iowa would prohibit teachers from talking about transgender issues. What will be the effect of such bills on our identity as a country and how we see ourselves in terms of equality?
7. According to Matt Purple, America is undergoing an "identity crisis." What does this mean and is there a way to rectify this?
8. What is the relationship between identity politics and the American culture wars? How should we attempt to resolve this (or is it resolvable) according to Dougherty?

**Readings:**

Orvis / Drogus – Chapter 4

**Video:**

*Zero Tolerance.*