SYLLABUS FOR HISTORY 19-7

Fall 2017

Fiat Lux Seminar
Wednesdays 4:00-4:50 in Haines Hall 110
Opening Session on October 4

EMERITUS PROFESSOR S. SCOTT BARTCHY

Topic: HONOR AND SHAME IN THE CLASH OF WORLD CULTURES AND RELIGIONS

Class Description:

Honor and shame are core cultural values for the vast majority of human beings, including most persons who are Muslims in many parts of the world. Ignoring this fact has led to serious (and avoidable) misunderstandings of world events and mistakes in United States’ foreign policies, which have been based most often on “western” individualistic values of achievement (including financial success) and guilt.

In this seminar students are challenged to reflect on the values with which they were raised as well as to achieve a deeper understanding of ways in which honor/shame values continue to influence the self-perception, gender roles, and various group and individual practices of more than five billion people now living.

Requirements and Basis for Grading:

1. Your regular participation in the weekly one-hour sessions. Plan to speak up frequently.

2. Your critical analysis of a number of articles and book chapters to be distributed during the quarter in timely preparation for discussion in the seminar sessions.

3. Two written assignments. The first is a five to six-page paper (typed and double-spaced) in which you examine the values according to which you were raised, due on Oct. 11. The second is a five to six-page paper in which you evaluate the ways in which the course content has led to your more profound understanding of some aspect of today’s world, such as a current event(s), a movie, a book, an essay, or a report on your extended conversation with someone who has been raised to live by honor/shame values. Due at the final session of the seminar on December 6.

4. Grading: “Passed” or “Not Passed”

Special invited guest at the end of this seminar: Prof. Barry O’Neill, Dept. of Political Science, who is an expert on honor issues in international relations.

Office Hours:

I will be glad to see you in my office, Bunche Hall 5343. I truly look forward to meeting you, so that you become more than a name on the course roster. This quarter I will be available by appointment only, either before or after our seminar sessions. My UCLA telephone: (310) 825-4570; there is an answering machine to take your messages if I am not in my office. My campus mailbox: Dept. of History, Bunche Hall 6265, Campus 147303. My e-mail address is: bartchy@history.ucla.edu
Reading and Writing Assignments: (the opening session is on October 4)

For Oct. 11: Study carefully these two handouts to be distributed at the opening session: 1) “Contrasting Approaches to Childrearing,” [3 pages]; 2) “Western Culture’ / Most of the Rest of the World,” [5 pages].

Writing assignment: Five to six page paper (typed and double-spaced), drawing on the information given in the two handouts to describe and analyze the values by which you were raised. Due at the beginning of the seminar on Oct. 11.

For Oct. 18: Article: “Seeds of Honor, Fields of Shame” by Carol Delaney, and a two-page handout dealing with “Honor and Shame: Moral Division of Labor” and “Honor and Shame 101.”

For Oct. 25: Four brief articles on “humiliation,” and one on the rape of both women and men. Further assignment: find examples of recent news reports in which the “humiliation factor” is important but yet seems to be ignored by the writer

For Nov. 1: Numerous brief articles on “honor killings.”

For Nov. 8: Book chapters: “Culture of Honor: the Psychology of Violence in the South” by Richard Nisbett and Dov Cohen.

For Nov. 15: Article: “Mediating National Honor” by Political Scientist Barry O’Neill.

No seminar session on Nov. 22. (Thanksgiving week)

For Nov. 29: Q&A Session with Prof. O’Neill.

For Dec. 5: Final Session: Each seminar participant will present a two-minute summary of his or her final writing assignment

Due at the beginning of the final session: Your Final Writing Assignment: A five-to-six page paper in which you use your new knowledge about honor/shame values gained in this course to analyze some aspect of today's world. For example, analyze a recent or historical event, a novel, a movie, a short story, an essay, or an extended personal conversation with someone raised in a honor/shame culture.

NOTE: There are no textbooks for this course. But a photocopied set of readings will be assigned and distributed for each seminar session. The cost of these photocopies will not exceed $10.00, and this amount is due from each seminar participant at the second session.