

Philosophy of Community II (PL29201)
Professors Joseph Flanagan, S.J. and David McMenamin
Spring, 2009 Tuesdays, 4:30 - 6:00

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the themes developed in Philosophy of Community I, though participation in the Fall seminar is not a requirement for participation in Spring.

With an eye toward understanding the connection between culture and community, we will examine various understandings of the nature of community in general, the relationship of culture to its communities, and the nature of human life in the context of community. Particular focus will be given to the American experience of community. Areas considered will include the historical, political, economic and literary, all with the purpose of understanding the cultural; the goal will be to identify the difficulties of reconciling individual and community life.

Texts:

Alexis DeTocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. II
Michael Kammen, *Spheres of Liberty*
Richard Lewis, *American Adam*
Jane Jacobs, *The Economy of Cities* and *Dark Age Ahead*
The Gospel according to John

Requirements:

Reading of assignments in advance of class.
Presentations to begin at least two class meetings.
Three written questions on each week's readings, except the weeks you present.
Group, oral final exam.

Reading Assignments:

Jan. 20 -- Introduction.
Jan. 27 -- Tocqueville, Vol. II, Preface and Part I, (pp. 417-500).
Feb. 3 -- Tocqueville, Vol. II, Part II and Chapters 1–10 of Part III (501-593).
Feb. 10 -- Tocqueville, Vol. II, Part III, Chapters 11-26 and Part IV (595-705).
Feb. 17 -- Lewis, Prologue and Chapters 1 – 4 (pp. 1-89).
Feb. 24 -- Lewis, Chapters 5 – 9 and Epilogue (pp. 90-198).
Mar. 10 -- Kammen, Introduction and Part I; also, read "Notes on Liberty in American Iconography," pp. 175-180.
Mar. 17 -- Kammen, Parts II & III
Mar. 24 -- Jacobs, *Economy of Cities*, Chapters 1 – 4.
Mar. 31 -- Jacobs, *Economy of Cities*, Chapters 5 – 8.
Apr. 7 -- Jacobs, *Dark Age Ahead*, (the whole book).
Apr. 14 -- The Gospel according to John
Apr. 21 -- "Grand Synthesis" Day
Apr. 28 -- Final Exam.