

**Mid Term Exam, Part I**  
**Due Thursday, November 9**

As you write your responses to the following questions, keep in mind that the underlying theme of this course is *The Perplexities of American Pluralism*. As you respond to each question, draw on & refer to as much supporting material from the course as appropriate and instructive – bolster/substantiate your comments by referencing in specific ways the materials presented in this course.

**#1. American Exceptionalism (20%)**

- (a) The United States of America is exceptional. Yes? No? Maybe? Say why....
- (b) Exceptional in what way(s) – Give specific concrete examples.
- (c) What do you mean when you use the word “exceptional” in this context?
- (d) Identify any ways that your understanding of “American Exceptionalism” has been affected, changed, or modified by any current events (either in- or out-side of class).

**#2. *E Pluribus Unum* (20%)**

- (a) Based on your reading, what is overwhelming perplexity seems inherent in our American motto, *E Pluribus Unum*?
- (b) Multiculturalism has variously been called an ideal, “a cult,” an inevitability, a contradiction, and a dead end. Pick whichever of these five alternatives (or a of them combination) that you most agree with and
- (c) explain why you hold that view,
- (d) referencing at least two articles in the packet which helped you reach that conclusion.

**#3. Immigration and Assimilation (18%)**

How would you distinguish between the three main stages or period of assimilation in the U.S.: Anglo Conformity (or primacy), the Melting Pot, and Multiculturalism? What different issues characterize each stage or period?

**#4. A Jury of Your Peers (18%)**

Imagine you are on trial for a capital crime (one for which the very likely penalty is the death sentence).

- (a) What three statuses of your own would you really want to have represented in the jury of your peers?
- (b) What is your rationale for selecting these three?
- (c) What does your answer tell you about yourself?

**#5. Nationality/Peoplehood (24%)**

You have been given a list of questions regarding the class session and readings on Nationality & Peoplehood. Select any two of them and write at least one paragraph in response to each (be sure to identify the questions you are responding to and include all parts of each one).