

## The Ethics of Cultural Appropriation

### Required Texts:

- James O Young, "Cultural Appropriation and the Arts"
- Susan Scafidi, "Who Owns Culture?"

### Class 1: Introduction, Ethical Theory, Basic Assumptions

### Class 2: Background & Cases

- NY Times debate:
  - <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/08/04/whose-culture-is-it-anyhow>
- Eastern/Asian Appropriation
  - Conor Friedersdorf, "The Food Fight at Oberlin College" (The Atlantic)
  - Michelle Goldberg, "Where the Whole World Meets in a Single Nest" (Slate)
- Black Appropriation
  - Brittney Cooper, "Iggy Azalea's Post-Racial Mess" (Salon)
  - Tressie McMillan Cotton, "Brown Body, White Wonderland" (Slate)
  - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, "Cornrows and Cultural Appropriation" (Time)
- Native Appropriation
  - Kevin Blackstone, "Washington Football Fans" (Washington Post)
  - Chuck Culpepper, "Florida State's Unusual Bond With Seminole Tribe" (Washington Post)
  - Jake Flanagan, "What Rugby Can Teach America About Honoring Indigenous Culture" (The Atlantic)
- Young, Chapter 1

### Class 3: Harm of Racism

- Mill, Harm Principle
- Lawrence Blum, "Racism: What it is and what it isn't" (2002)

### Class 4: Taking Offense and Being Offensive

- Joel Feinberg, "Offensive Nuisances", from *Offense to Others*
- Robin Barrow, "On the Duty of Not Taking Offence" (2005)
- Graham Haydon, "On the Duty of Educating Respect: A Response to Robin Barrow" (2006)

### Class 5: What is a culture and why does it matter?

- Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition" (1994)
- Sam Scheffler, "The Normativity of Tradition" (2010)
- Jonathan Lear, "Crisis of Intelligibility"

#### **Class 6: Challenges to the Importance of Culture**

- Mill, Experiments in Living
- Waldron, "Minority Cultures and Cosmopolitan Alternative"
- Appiah, "The Trouble with Culture" (Ch. 4 of Ethics of Identity)
- Narayan, "Essence of Culture"

#### **Class 7: Cultural Authenticity**

- Claudia Mills, "Multiculturalism and Cultural Authenticity"
- Scafidi, Chapter 5, Claiming Community Ownership via Authenticity
- Young, Chapter 2: Aesthetics of Cultural Appropriation

#### **Class 8: Cultural Ownership**

- Michael Brown, "Cultures and Copyrights" from Who Owns Native Culture?
- Scafidi, Chapter 2, Ownership of Intangible Property
- Scafidi, Chapter 3, Cultural Products as Accidental Property

#### **Class 9: Cultural Appropriation I – Against**

- Young, chapter 3, Cultural Appropriation as Theft
- Young, chapter 4, Cultural Appropriation as Assault
- Hurka, Should Whites Write About Minorities?

#### **Class 10: Cultural Appropriation II – Against**

- Scafidi, chapter 7, Outsider Appropriation
- Scafidi, chapter 8, Misappropriation and the Destruction of Values

#### **Class 11: Cultural Appropriation III – Defenses**

- Appiah, "The Case for Contamination" (NY Times)
- Young, chapter 5, Profound Offence and Cultural Appropriation
- Matthes, Cultural Appropriation without Cultural Essentialism? [reply to Young]
- Joel Rudinow, "Can Whites Sing the Blues?"

#### **Class 12: Cultural Appropriation III – Defenses**

- Kamila Shamsie, "The Storytellers of Empire" [defends minimal cultural appropriation]
- Parul Sehgal, "Is Cultural Appropriation Always Wrong?" (NY Times)
- Yo Zushi, In Defense of Cultural Appropriation (New Statesman)

-Scafidi, chapter 9, Permissive Appropriation