

Paper Topics – Paper 2
17.042 Citizenship and Pluralism

* Papers are due on **Friday, December 12th**, by **NOON**, in my mailbox.

Write an 8-10 page paper (12 point font, double-spaced) on one of the following topics:

1. Compare and contrast the civic republican and liberal conceptions of citizenship with respect to the question of which conception best accommodates the cultural and religious pluralism that characterizes contemporary democratic societies.
2. Compare and contrast the views of Kymlicka and Waldron with respect to the question of whether each individual needs a “secure cultural structure.” Explain which view you find more persuasive, and why.
3. Can liberals defend restrictions on immigration on principled grounds? On practical grounds? Why or why not?
4. Evaluate Okin’s claim that granting special protections to minority cultural groups is bad for women. Why does she think that granting minority group rights works to the detriment of women? Do you agree or disagree, and why?
5. Develop and defend a conception of American citizenship that you think best accommodates religious and cultural pluralism while also providing an account of what ties Americans together. What would such a conception look like? What would motivate people to accept it (i.e. is it possible to achieve)? Why should people accept it (i.e. why is it desirable)? Feel free to be creative, but be sure to draw on readings from the course.