

Reading/Discussion Questions for October 22
17.042 Citizenship and Pluralism
Civic Republican Views of Citizenship

Miller

1. *Chapter 3*: What, in Miller's view, is "the problem of citizenship and pluralism"? What are the key elements of the three different conceptions of citizenship that he outlines (liberal, libertarian, and republican), and how are they distinct from one another? How does each conception attempt to address the challenges of pluralism? Why does he think the republican view is the most desirable?
2. *Chapter 4*: What, according to Miller, gave rise to the politics of recognition? What are the problems with the politics of recognition? Why does he think such politics is "self-defeating"?
3. *Chapter 5*: Why should citizenship be confined within the boundaries of the nation-state and not extended to transnational or global forms, as Miller argues?

Sandel

4. How does Sandel define the liberal or "voluntarist" conception of freedom? How does he define the republican or "civic" conception of freedom? How are these two conceptions distinct in his view? Do you agree with Sandel's characterization of the liberal conception of freedom?
5. Sandel claims that the republican conception of freedom has been expressed in political debates about moral virtues and about the economic preconditions of citizenship. What are some examples that he gives? Do you agree that the republican conception of freedom, as distinct from a liberal conception, was actually present in these debates?
6. Sandel observes that the authority of the nation-state is threatened from above by the emergence of the global economy and challenged from below by resurgent demands of subnational groups for autonomy and recognition. The problem then is to devise political institutions capable of governing the global economy while also cultivating civic identities necessary to sustain such political institutions. How does Sandel suggest we go about addressing this challenge?