Reading/Discussion Questions for September 24

17.042 Citizenship and Pluralism

- 1. Why, in Dworkin's view, is the economic argument for state support of the arts limited? Aren't cultural goods (like opera and fiction) public goods, like military defense and clean air, which qualify for state support?
- 2. Why, in Dworkin's view, should a liberal state support art? (Be sure to consider his discussion of the importance of "cultural structure," pp. 229-233)
- 3. According to Kymlicka, why is cultural membership valuable? (See Liberalism, Community, and Culture (LCC), chapter 8, and Multicultural Citizenship (MC), chapter 5) In discussing the value of cultural membership, Kymlicka distinguishes between the "cultural structure" and the character or content of a culture. Why does he make this distinction? Does the distinction do the work Kymlicka wants it to do?
- 4. In Chapter 9 of LCC and Chapter 6 of MC, Kymlicka argues for special protections for minority cultures by appealing to the liberal ideal of equality. How does he make this egalitarian case? Do you agree that equality require special protections for minority cultures?
- 5. In MC, Kymlicka distinguishes between immigrants and national minorities. On what basis does he distinguish these two types of groups? What sorts of cultural protections is each group entitled to?
- 6. How should a liberal state treat non-liberal minorities?