

PT150 Citizens of the World: Ancient, Modern, Contemporary

Module: International Studies and Globalization

Credits: 8 ECTS, 4 U.S credits

Course Times: Mon 13:30 - 15:00, Wed 13:30 - 15:00, Seminar Room 2

Instructors: Ewa Atanassow (e.atanassow@berlin.bard.edu) and Thomas Bartscherer (bart@bard.edu)

Office hours: Tue 13:30-15 or by appt.

In this course we shall explore a tension that lies at the heart of the ideal of global citizenship and seems to define our present moment: the tension, that is, between the particularity that characterizes membership in a given cultural and political community and the universality of the human condition. Reading key texts in the evolution of the concept of global citizenship, we will examine its philosophical and historical development and its political, moral, and psychological implications from antiquity to the present day, with an emphasis on the ethics of international relations.

In Plato's *Apology*, Socrates raises the question of whether the virtue or excellence of a citizen (*politikos*) is the same as that of a human being (*anthropos*) and in the fourth-century BCE, Diogenes will become the first person on record to declare himself a citizen of the world (*kosmopolitês*). Starting with these ancient texts and their historical context, we will examine the meaning of cosmopolitanism, and the interrelation between the particular and the universal, the local and the global, paying close attention both to the clashes between these two perspectives and to the possibilities for reconciliation. This course aims, among other things, to compare ideas about political community and internationalism in various regions and at different times, and to reflect on the nature and status of normative claims that may be thought to transcend cultural and political boundaries.

This course will be co-taught simultaneously in Berlin and Annandale-on-Hudson. Through shared readings, collaborative cross-campus assignments and a joint transatlantic debate we shall explore in practice as we study in theory the opportunities and challenges of a global community.

Required books (you must have your own copy of the specified edition)

* Plato, *Apology* and *Crito*, tr. West and West, in: *Four Texts on Socrates* (available from the library)

* Sophocles, *Antigone* (available from the library)

* Gandhi, *Selected Political Writings* (Hackett Classics, 1996) ISBN: 978-0872203303, 0872203301

* Tagore, *The Home and the World* (Penguin Classics, 2005) ISBN: 0140449868, 9780140449860

* Course Reader (print edition), including readings by Thucydides, Diogenes Laertius, Cicero, Kant, Marx, Gandhi, Arendt, Jaspers, Nussbaum, Butler, Sen, Walzer, Calhoun, Appiah

Library and Book Purchase Policies

Students are expected to purchase all required books. A limited number of the required books are available on loan from the library. Students on financial aid have a priority in requesting library books. All other readings will be in the course reader.

Requirements and assessment

1) Seminar participation (40 %), including:

- systematic preparation and active engagement in the seminar discussion 25 %
- debates preparation and participation: 15%

2) Writing assignments (60 %), including:

- Short reflection paper (350 words), due **Saturday February 4**: 5%
- 750 word collaborative essay, due **Saturday March 4**: 15 %
- 750 word Individual essay, due **Friday, April 7**: 10%
- 350 word peer review, due **Monday, April 17**: 5%
- Final essay (1800 words) on a topic of your choice, due **Friday, May 19**: 25 %

Late essays will be graded according to the Late Submissions Policy in the Student Handbook.

Guidelines for collaborative assignments:

For the March 4 essay students will work in pairs— one from Berlin and one from Annandale, and will collaborate by skype and email to co-author a joint paper. A paragraph describing the collaboration is also required.

Guidelines for peer reviews:

Each review should consist of 3 elements: **i)** what you take to be the main purpose or central claim of the paper you are reviewing; **ii)** what in your view is its positive achievement; **iii)** what can be done better and how. Evaluation criteria: clear and thoughtful, grounded in the text, triggering discussion.

Guidelines for debate preparation:

Local debate: During class on the week of **17 April**, students on each campus will decide on their local debate topic and will discuss the relevant readings. This debate will be held during the week of **8 May**.

Cross-campus debate: Students will be assigned to committees comprised of representatives from both campuses. By 24 April, each committee will propose one potential debate topic for the cross-campus debate. One of the proposed topics will be selected for the debate and each committee will then choose one required reading, to be distributed via email on Monday, **1 May**. The cross-campus debate will be held on the weekend of **12-13 May**.

Monday, 8 May is dedicated to preparation for both debates.

Schedule

| Week Beginning | Mon 13:30 - 15:00 | Wed 13:30 - 15:00 | Assignments |
|--|--|---|---|
| 30 Jan | <u>Introductory</u> : the problem of cosmopolitanism | the problem of cosmopolitanism II: speeches by Trump, May, Taylor, Merkel, article by Haidt | 300 words reflection, due Sat. Feb 4 |
| 1. Citizens of the World: Ancient | | | |
| 6 Feb | Plato, <i>Apology</i> | Plato, <i>Crito</i> | |
| 13 Feb | Thucydides, <i>History</i> Books 1 & 2 selections | Thucydides, <i>History</i> Books 2 & 5 selections | |
| 20 Feb | <u>Human vs divine law</u> Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> | Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> | |
| 27 Feb | Life of Diogenes | Cicero and Marcus Aurelius, selections | 750 word collaborative essay + description, due Sat. March 4 |
| 2. Citizens of the World: Modern | | | |
| 6 Mar | Kant, <i>Universal History</i> | Kant, <i>Perpetual Peace</i> Fichte, Addresses | 350 word Peer Review |
| 13 Mar | Marx, <i>On the Jewish Question</i> | Marx, <i>On the Jewish Question</i> | |
| 20 Mar | Gandhi, Political Writings, selections | Gandhi, Political Writings, selections | |
| 27 Mar | Tagore, <i>The Home and the World</i> | Tagore, <i>The Home and the World</i> | |
| 3 Apr | Arendt, <i>Origins of Totalitarianism</i> | Jaspers/Arendt | 750 word individual essay, due Fri Apr 7 |
| 10 Apr | SPRING BREAK | | |

| 3. Citizens of the World: Contemporary | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 17 Apr | Nussbaum/Cohen, <i>For Love of Country?</i> Nussbaum, Butler | Nussbaum/Cohen, <i>For Love of Country?</i> Sen, Walzer | Peer review, due Mon Apr 17 |
| 24 Apr | McIntyre, <i>Is Patriotism a Virtue?</i> | Calhoun, "The Class Consciousness of Frequent Travelers: Towards a Critique of Actually Existing Cosmopolitanism" | |
| 1 May | FEDERAL HOLIDAY | Special session: Domink Zahrnt on Cosmopolitan Practice | |
| 8 May | Contemporary articles: to prepare for the debate | Berlin Debate: "A citizen of the world is a citizen of nowhere!" | weekend event: Berlin-Annandale skype debate |
| 15 May | COMPLETION WEEK: 1800 words final essay due Friday, May 19 | | |