

# PT150 Global Citizenship

Seminar Leader: Prof. Dr. Kerry Bystrom  
Course Times: Wednesday and Friday 14:00-15:30  
Email: k.bystrom@gmail.com  
Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00-11:30

## Course Description

Modern citizenship is a concept associated with nation-states, and at base signifies the status of belonging to a bounded political order and the rights and duties this entails. Yet economic, political, legal and technological globalization increasingly calls state boundaries into question, and borderless problems such as forced migration, climate change, epidemics, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism require collective action on an equally global scale. In this context, global citizenship has been promoted as a sensibility and indeed as an emerging reality. This course explores the notion of “global citizenship” from the theoretical, cultural, and political perspectives and challenges students to think critically about what global citizenship can and should mean. We will explore current conceptions of global citizenship along with critiques of it, and think about ways in which it may be forged or national citizenship can be otherwise reconceived and reconstructed to respond to the urgent dilemmas of globalization. At the heart of the course will be an interdisciplinary exploration of two of the borderless problems already noted above—forced migration and climate change—through readings and discussion of novels, film, social theory, social scientific research, and policy documents from international organizations; as well as through exchange between students taking this course in different parts of the Bard network.

## Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge of the institutions, organizations, agreements and processes of negotiation that structure relationships between nation states
- Knowledge of the role of non- (both sub- and supra-) national actors in shaping the current global system
- Understanding of concepts and theories of citizenship and globalization
- Awareness of contemporary global and cross-border issues and of key interpretations of their causes and impact
- Ability to frame and express arguments clearly in written and oral form
- Creation of intellectual connections with professors, students and programs of study across the Bard network

## Readings

The following books are required:

- Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines*
- Ghassan Kanafani, *Men in the Sun*
- Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, *The Collapse of Western Civilization*
- Manfred Steger, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*

Personal copies of books should be purchased at a local bookstore or on-line. There are also 2-3 copies of each required course text in the library on the Reserve Shelf.

Further required readings can be found in the Course Reader (CR) and/or on-line at the websites listed in the syllabus.

## **Requirements**

- Active and informed participation in all class sessions
- Two written analytical essays
- Position Paper for and participation in Climate Change Summit
- Active participation in and completion of Group Project: Introducing Global Citizens

### **Attendance**

Attendance at all classes is expected. More than two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester will affect your participation grade for this course. Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence. In accordance with the Student Handbook, a failing grade for the course will be given if absences reach 30% of the course meetings.

### **Assessment**

Syllabi should include all assignments required for the course, the dates on which they are due, and any stipulations concerning submission of drafts, or consultation with writing tutors/use of the Writing Center.

### **Writing Assignments**

This course has two written analytic essay assignments. The first should be approximately 1000-1500 words (3-4 pages double spaced) and the second approximately 2000-2500 words (5-7 pages double-spaced). You will receive more detailed instruction sheets in advance of each essay.

### **Climate Change Summit**

All students will participate in a mock Climate Change Summit. You are required to write a 500-600 word (1-2 pages double-spaced) position paper in preparation for this Summit.

### **Cross-Campus Group Project: Introducing Global Citizens**

In small groups across the BCB and AUCA campuses, you will produce a video or podcast (5-10 minutes) introducing students in the rest of the classes to an individual or organization that you see acting as a “global citizen” in response to a contemporary borderless problem. Alongside work on the project, you will complete and turn in a project journal. Further details on the structure and requirements of this project will be communicated in a separate assignment sheet. This project will be graded pass/fail, and a failure will result in an automatic lowering of your final grade by a full letter grade.

### **Academic Integrity**

In this course, we aim to conduct ourselves as a community of scholars, recognizing that academic study is both an intellectual and ethical enterprise. You are encouraged to build on the ideas and texts of others; that is a vital part of academic life. However, you are also obligated to document every occasion when you use another’s ideas, language, or syntax. When you use another’s ideas or language—whether through direct quotation, summary, or paraphrase—you must formally

acknowledge that debt by signaling it in the MLA parenthetical format (<http://www.mla.org/style>). Please come to see me if you have any questions about when and how to cite. Please note that instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

### Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. If I agree to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

## Grade Breakdown

Mid-term Essay: 30%

Final Essay: 40%

Position Paper and Simulation: 10%

Participation: 20%

Group Project: n/a but a FAIL will lower your final grade by a full letter grade

## Schedule

*\*\*Please note that this schedule is subject to change and it is your responsibility to keep up with the latest assignments and deadlines. Please also note that classes may be rescheduled for Completion Week so you must plan to stay on campus until December 21, 2018\*\**

### Week 1

Wednesday 5 September Introduction and course outline

Reading:

-Pocock, "The Ideal of Citizenship Since Classical Times" (CR)

Friday 7 September Beginning Impressions of Global Citizenship

**Assignment:** please choose an image that represents what global citizenship means to you and write a short essay (no more than one single-spaced page) explaining why you chose this image. In addition, you should also write a short (no more than 50 words) caption to accompany your image that succinctly explains why you chose it. You should post image with caption to our Global Citizenship Google Classroom and send the essay to me at [k.bystrom@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:k.bystrom@berlin.bard.edu) by midnight on Thursday Sept 6.

Reading:

-Schattle, "Global Citizenship in Theory and Practice" (CR)

*Part One: Citizenship beyond the nation-state?*

### Week 2

Wednesday 12 September Citizenship and the Nation-State

Assignment: Look up the rules on citizenship in one Bard campus (Germany; Palestine; Russia; Kyrgyzstan; USA). Come to class prepared to discuss how this country determines the criteria for membership in its political community.

Reading:

- Brubaker, "Citizenship as Social Closure" (CR)
- Anderson, "Imagined Communities" (CR)

Friday 14 September Globalization, International Institutions and the Nation-State I  
Guest Lecture on Economic Globalization TBA

Reading:

- Steger, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* 1-16, 37-59, 103-106
- Sassen, "Towards a Post-National and De-Nationalized Citizenship" (CR)
- Foran, "The Canada Experiment" (CR)

### Week 3

**Group Project begins Monday 17 September**

Wednesday 19 September Globalization, International Institutions and the Nation-State II

- Steger *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* 60-73
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (CR), also look through the UN Charter:  
<http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>
- Falk and Strauss, "Toward Global Parliament" (CR)

Friday 21 September Debating Cosmopolitan Citizenship I

Reading:

- Nussbaum, "Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism" (CR)
- Calhoun, "The Class Consciousness of Frequent Travelers: Towards a Critique of Actually Existing Cosmopolitanism" (CR)

### Week 4

Wednesday 26 September Debating Cosmopolitan Citizenship II  
In-class Debate

Friday 28 September Bottom Up Cosmopolitanism and Activist Citizenship

Reading:

- Keck and Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics" (CR)
- Isin, "Citizenship in Flux: The Figure of the Activist Citizen" (CR)

### Week 5

Wednesday 3 October—NO CLASS FEDERAL HOLIDAY

Friday 5 October Imagining Global Citizenship I

Reading:

- Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines* (pp 3-110)

**Mid-Term Essay Assignment**

### Week 6

Wednesday 10 October Imagining Global Citizenship II

Reading:

- Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines* (pp 111-193)

Friday 12 October Imagining Global Citizenship III

Reading:

-Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines* (pp. 194-246)

*Part Two: Forced Migration as Borderless Problem*

Week 7

Wednesday 17 October The Making of the Modern Refugee

Reading:

-Arendt, "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man" (CR)

Friday 19 October The UN Refugee Framework

Reading:

-1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol (CR)

-The United Nations and Palestinian Refugees (CR)

**Essay 1 Due Sunday 21 October at midnight**

Week 8

Wednesday 24 October Introducing Global Citizens Group Project Work Day

**Group Projects Due Thursday October 25 at at 6pm CET/10pm Bishkek**

Friday 26 October—NO CLASS make-up=simulation

N/A

Wednesday 31 October—FALL BREAK

Friday 2 November—FALL BREAK

Week 9

Wednesday 7 November Palestinian Refugees and the Question of Citizenship I

Guest lecture on Palestine Situation: Prof. Mostafa Elostaz, Al-Quds Bard (TBC)

Reading:

-Said, "Reflections on Exile" (CR)

-Kanafani, "Land of Sad Oranges" and "Letters from Gaza" in *Men in the Sun*

Friday 9 November Palestinian Refugees and the Question of Citizenship II

Reading:

-Kanafani, "Men in the Sun" in *Men in the Sun*

Week 10

Wednesday 14 November EU Migration Regimes or, Welcome to Fortress Europe

Reading:

- Review the Common European Asylum System: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/index_en.html) [o]
- Important information for applying for asylum in Germany (CR)
- <http://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/general/short-overview-asylum-procedure>
- Fassin, "Ambivalent Hospitality" pp. 154-57 (CR)

Friday 16 November Representing Refugees

Film: Michael Winterbottom, *In this World* (83 min)

Reading:

- Malkki, "Speechless Emissaries" pp. 385-90 (CR)
- Appadurai, "Aspirational Maps: On Migrant Narratives and Imagined Future Citizenship" (CR)

Wednesday 21 November Theorizing Migrant Citizenships

Reading:

- Nyers, "Migrant Citizenships and Autonomous Mobilities" (CR)
- Fontanari, "Confined to the Threshold" (CR)
- Rygiel, "Bordering Solidarities: Migrant activism and the politics of movement and camps in Calais" (CR)

### *Part Three: Climate Change as Borderless Problem*

#### Week 11

Friday 23 November Climate Change: Views from the Future

Reading:

- Atwood, "Time Capsule Found on the Dead Planet" (CR)
- Oreskes and Conway, *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future*, pp. ix-52

#### Week 12

Wednesday 28 November The International Framework for Combatting Climate Change

Reading:

- United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (CR)
- Ciplet, Roberts and Khan, *Power in a Warming World*, 1-17 (CR)
- The Guardian, "Everything you need to know about the Bonn climate summit and UN talks"

Friday 30

State-Centric Climate Politics and The Question of Climate Justice

Reading

- Ghosh, *The Great Derangement* Introduction

Saturday 1 December midnight position papers due

Sunday 2 December, 13:00-17:30 Climate Change Summit

Week 13

Wednesday 5 December Reflecting on the Process of Climate Change Diplomacy

Reading:

-TBA

Friday 7 December Alternative Environmental Activisms

Reading:

-Klein, "Blockadia" pp. 293-315 (CR)

-Nixon, "Pipedreams" (CR)

-Saro-Wiwa, "Author's Note" in *Genocide in Nigeria: The Ogoni Tragedy* (CR)

-Wiwa, "Finally it seems as if Ken Saro-Wiwa, my father, may not have died in vain"

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/10/ken-saro-wiwa-father-nigeria-ogoniland-oil-pollution>

Week 14

Wednesday 12 December What is (or could be) environmental citizenship?

Reading:

-Barry, "Resistance is Fertile: From Environmental to Sustainability Citizenship" (CR)

Assignment: What would environmental citizenship look like? Building on today's readings and readings throughout the semester, make a list of at least three rights or duties you think environmental citizenship should entail, and think about how to bring your conception from theory into reality

*Part Four: Global Citizenship Reconsidered*

Friday 14 December Conclusion

Assignment: Review and reflect on the one-page paper you wrote about your first impressions of (global) citizenship at the beginning of the class. How has your thinking about global citizenship changed over the past fifteen weeks? Select an image that now symbolizes for you the meaning of global citizenship and upload it to the course website. (If still appropriate, this can be the same image.)

Week 15 (Completion Week)

Wednesday 19 December

**Final Essay due at midnight**