New York University

Global Citizenship: Podcasting Global Issues
Freshmen Seminar
Spring 2020, Mondays 2:00-4:30 pm
Deutsches Haus, Washington Mews (University Place)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Are we all global citizens? How can you belong to a community that is defined by a shared sense of purpose, origin, or identity, and yet think of yourself as inextricably part of the whole world? This seminar poses a more specific question: Are there global rights and concepts, or are the rights of people and the meaning of their concepts defined by the communities in which they live? Are there immutable principles that apply to everyone around the world, and that cannot be redefined or adjusted according to local customs and preferences?

Are women’s rights (to equal social standing) universal? Is the death penalty acceptable? Is physician-assisted suicide acceptable? It is morally defensible to eat animals? Who should pay for polluting the oceans? Does democracy have a uniform, global definition that includes free elections, freedom of expression, and independent courts? What about equality?

Is there a shared humanity on which we can base an ethical and political system? What happens when we impose our values on others and on other cultures? What are the issues that must be addressed jointly, across actual and invisible borders and divisions?

The class tackles a set of issues in sequence, starting with a consideration of globally applicable rights and responsibilities (institutionalized in the United Nations). The issues will be addressed to leading experts and activists in a series of podcast conversations. Students will learn a set of skills: preparing for an interview via research; outlining an interview protocol; recording a podcast conversation; the full suite of skills needed to record, edit, design, upload and promote a podcast.
CLASS FORMAT, EXPECTATIONS, & GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Weekly assignments:
• Seminar participation. Each class will cover topics and information vital to your successful completion of the course; attendance and punctuality are essential. You are asked to come to our seminar prepared, with your audio, reading, and writing assignments completed and your contributions to our NYU Classes discussion posted in a timely fashion.
• 1-3 assigned readings: articles, journal essays, book chapters
• 1-4 audio listening assignments
• Discussion posts to NYU Classes (reading or podcast responses; discussions of classmates’ posts; glossary contributions)

Podcast production assignments:
**Mini-podcast**: interview-based (pass/fail)
**Podcast 1**: research and audio collected as a group; podcast produced in a small group; due mid-semester.
Annotated bibliography and storyboard (first draft, then annotated)
One-page written critique of peer’s podcast-in-progress for Podcast 1. (Email your critique to the peer and post a copy of your critique to the Assignments section of NYU Classes.)
**Podcast 2**: podcast produced in a group (different from the previous group), due end of semester.
Annotated bibliography and storyboard. Graded by Instructor.

GRADING
5% Mini-podcast (pass/fail)
5% Attendance and posted comments
20% Seminar participation
20% Podcast 1
15% NYU Classes discussion posts and peer critique of Podcast 1
10% Annotated bibliography and storyboard
25% Podcast 2

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS
DISCUSSION POSTS
Each seminar member is asked to post two weekly critical reactions to the NYU Classes Discussion section. One post should be an original comment about the reading and audio assignment, and the other a response to a classmate. At least one of your posts should address the reading. When commenting on a specific moment in a podcast, please include the timestamp so that we can find the moment to which you’re referring. Class members may participate in the discussion throughout the week, but the final deadline for posting both comments is at 10 PM (no later) on Sunday before class time. This will give everyone
enough time to read your comments before class.

PODCAST PROCESS ASSIGNMENTS
While developing your podcast, you will be asked to create the following:
● an annotated bibliography reflecting your academic research for your story
● an annotated storyboard that increasingly forms a written transcript of your story
● a written peer critique of another student’s podcast-in-progress for Podcast 1

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS
All written assignments should follow these guidelines:
● 12-point Times New Roman or other legible typeface
● double-spaced (including indented quotations)
● standard margins
● numbered pages
● where relevant, documented with parenthetical references and a Works Cited list that follows the form specified in the MLA Handbook, 8th edition
● thoroughly proofread
● printed and stapled, with your name, submitted at the beginning of class

AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS
MINI-PODCAST (IN PAIRS, 30 seconds - 1 minute)
A mini-podcast on “Spirit of the Greek Games” using peer interview and at least one of the following: voice-over narration, ambient sound, or music

PODCAST 1 (GROUP PRODUCED PODCAST, 5 minutes)
Students will be assigned to small groups and are required to decided jointly on a topic to be discussed from a local and global perspective. Each member of the group will contribute to the development of a research plan, research, interview and other sound collection. Then, each group will jointly produce a 5-minute podcast with the group-generated material.

PODCAST 2 (GROUP PRODUCED PODCAST, 10-15 minutes)
Using the skills honed this semester, each group will develop a podcast from idea to completion, using a topic of their choice (and professor approval). Along the way, a research plan, interviews, transcripts, and scripts will be developed and discussed. Production drafts, in the form of working excerpts, will be workshopped in class. The final 10-15-minute podcast is due on May...

Attendance Policy:
You are required to attend all seminar meetings and field trips, upload all recordings/edits/documents to a shared platform/drive on time, arrive on time, and inform the instructor of excused absences (due to illness) as soon as feasible (in advance of class, or soon after the missed class).

READINGS

Required Texts:
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, A Discourse upon the Origin and the Foundation of the Inequality among Mankind (many editions available)
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

A reader will be made available for purchase at Advanced Copy Center, 552 LaGuardia Place and online at NYU Classes.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Session 1:

Session 2: WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION
**February 3:** Visit to the UNITED NATIONS headquarters: Meet at: United Nations Visitors Headquarters
405 E 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017
(46th Street and 1st Avenue)

Readings (in class reader, or online):
Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch”
Suzy Hansen, “Unlearning the Myth of American Innocence”
Watch: Where Do Human Rights Begin?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=5RR4VXNX3jA&feature=emb_logo
The Story of Human Rights:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=oh3BbLk5UIQ&feature=emb_logo

Session 3:
**February 10:** Learning audio editing software
FIRST AUDIO ASSIGNMENT:
PRODUCE MINI-PODCAST on the (in assigned teams of 2 students each: 1 – 2 minutes)
A mini-podcast on “The Idea behind the UNITED NATIONS” using peer interview and at least one of the following: voice-over narration, ambient sound, or music.

[ February 17: Holiday/President’s Day]

Session 4: ARE THERE UNIVERSAL RIGHTS?
**February 24**
Readings:

Readings:
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Second Discourse, on the Origins of Inequality Among Men*
Listen to Rousseau episode with Professor Melissa Schwartzberg, *Think About It* podcast

“Debating Human Rights: Are they Universal or Relative to Culture,” by Tom O’Connor
https://developmenteducation.ie/blog/2014/02/debating-human-rights-universal-or-relative-to-culture/

Case studies

Session 5: WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**March 2**

“Recognizing Rights, Promoting Progress: CEDAW Report on Women’s Rights

Mary Wollstonecraft,
Catharine MacKinnon, excerpts from *Feminism Unmodified*

Susan Moller Okin, “Gender Inequality and Cultural Differences” (Pogge/Horton)


Audre Lorde

Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie, “The Danger of a Single Story,” “We Should All be Feminists”

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (excerpts)

Listen to episode on Simone de Beauvoir on *Think About It* podcast

DUE: Choose a topic for Podcast 1; write one page summary of issue from local and global perspective

Session 6: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: A UNIVERSAL RIGHT?

**March 9**

Readings:
**Bill of Rights:**
John Stuart Mill, excerpts

Read: Yu Hua, *China In Ten Words* (“Introduction,” “People,” and “Disparity”)

DUE: Storyboard and bibliography or guest profiles for Podcast 1

DUE: March 13 (FRIDAY) Podcast 1

March 9: F

[March 16 – SPRING RECESS]

Session 7: RIGHT TO WORK/FAIR LABOR CONDITIONS

**March 23**

Gillian B. White, “All Your Clothes are Made with Exploited Labor,” *The Atlantic*:
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*
Nina Munk, from *The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and His Quest to End Poverty*
Lydia Pilis, “Everything you need to know about the Trans-Pacific Partnership”
Listen or watch Marx episode with Videk Chidder, *Think About It* podcast, on Karl Marx

Session 8: CAN THE WEST SELF-CORRECT?
**March 30**
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Chinua Achebe, “An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*”
Watch: Francis Ford Coppola, *Apocalypse Now*
Ciro Guerra, *Embrace of the Serpent*
Listen to episode on Chinua Achebe on *Think About It* podcast

Session 9: SECURITY/ TERROR
**April 6**
Visit to the 9/11 Museum
Pamela Sneed, “Elvis” in: *110 Stories: New York Writes After September 11*
On 9/11:

DUE: Choose a topic for Podcast 2; write one page summary of issue from local and global perspective

Session 10: SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-DETERMINATION
**April 13**
Israel/Palestine
China/Tibet
Canada/Quebec
Spain/Catalonia
India/Pakistan/Kashmir
DUE: Storyboard and bibliography and/or guest profiles for Podcast 2
Read Khushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan*
Watch: Eytan Fox, *The Bubble*

Session 11: IS CLIMATE CHANGE A GLOBAL CONCERN?
**April 20**
VISIT: *Countryside, the Future* exhibit at the Guggenheim Museum
https://www.guggenheim.org/exhibition/countryside
Listen or watch Climate Change episode with Dale Jamieson on *Think About It* podcast
Readings: Naomi Klein, from *This Changes Everything*

Session 12: MIGRATION/RIGHT TO ASYLUM/FREEDOM FROM PERSECUTION
**April 27**
Read: Peter Singer, “Is the Lifeboat Full?”
Thomas Hurka, “The Justification of National Partiality”
*Read*: Dayo Olopade, from *The Bright Continent: Breaking Rules in Modern Africa*

Watch: Manthia Diawara, *Opera of the World*
Lars von Trier, *Dogville*

Session 13:
**May 4**
PODCAST PRESENTATION AND CRITIQUE
DUE: Podcast 2

Session 14 (FINAL CLASS MEETING)
May 11