

Montserrat
Theories of Global Citizenship
Prof. Jennie Germann Molz

COURSE OVERVIEW

*Enrolled students should consult Moodle
for a current and complete syllabus.*

Part One: Cosmopolitan Citizenship

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In a world that is increasingly characterized by global flows of people, commodities, money, information and media, what does it mean to belong to a particular place, to be at home or to be a citizen? In this year-long course, we will explore the implications of mobility and globalization for cultural identity, national citizenship, global belonging and our sense of home. Throughout the year, we will use the concept of 'cosmopolitanism' to examine the intersecting themes of identity, citizenship, home and belonging in a globalizing world. The key objective of this seminar is to provide you with the necessary analytical tools to interrogate the links between the personal and the global. How are our local and national memberships related to citizenship at the global level? How does globalization inflect our everyday lives and practices of belonging?

We will be asking a series of interrelated questions this semester: What is globalization? What does it mean to be a citizen in the age of globalization? Is the significance of the nation receding; and if so, what does this mean for ideas about national citizenship and patriotism? What possibilities does it raise for global citizenship? Is it feasible to be both a patriot and a citizen of the world? Is global citizenship merely a theoretical concept for thinking about civic life in a global world, or can it – must it – exist in practice?

In this course, we will take a sociological approach to global citizenship. This means that we will be concerned with the complex interrelationship between individual experiences, identities and biographies on the one hand and collective identities, public histories and social structures on the other. After establishing an understanding of the sociological perspective that underpins the course, we will consider definitions of citizenship, globalization and cosmopolitanism. We will then turn our attention to contemporary debates around the nation and national citizenship in a globalizing world. Next, we will examine the concept of cosmopolitanism in depth, focusing in particular on the way the civic and political aspects of cosmopolitanism are translated into certain forms of activism, engagement and citizenship at the global level. During this time, you will be encouraged to participate in a community-based project that gives you an opportunity to 'do' citizenship while you also reflect on theories of citizenship. Finally, we will prepare ourselves for next semester by beginning to think about the relationship between cosmopolitan citizenship, culture and ideas of being at home in the world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By participating in this course, you will:

- Better understand the sociological significance of the concepts of citizenship, globalization and cosmopolitanism. In particular, you will be able to apply a sociological perspective to these concepts to explore the interconnection between personal biographies of citizenship and the broader context of globalization.
- Recognize the relationships and tensions among citizenship, the nation, culture, identity, territory and globalization.
- Be able to explain the *civic* and *political* connotations associated with the concept of cosmopolitanism and begin to anticipate the *cultural* connotations that we will address next semester.
- Understand at a theoretical and a practical level how civic participation in the *local* community is related to *global* citizenship. This will involve reading and writing about key debates and discourses that surround global citizenship as well as 'doing citizenship' by engaging in a community-based service project.
- Further develop your critical reading and writing skills, research and organizational skills, and public speaking skills by discussing assigned readings in class and applying sociological theory and analysis in written assignments.
- Work toward the learning objectives that you set for yourself at the beginning of the semester

REQUIRED READINGS

- Thomas L. Friedman *The World Is Flat 3.0: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*. Picador, 2007.
- Gerard Delanty *Citizenship in a Global Age: Society, Culture, Politics*. Open University Press, 200.
- Martha C. Nussbaum *For Love of Country?* Beacon Press, 2002.
- Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild (Eds) *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Henry Holt, 2002.
- *Recommended*: Immanuel Kant (trans. Mary Campbell Smith) *Perpetual Peace*. Cosimo Classics, 2005 [1795].

Part Two: Globalization, Home, Belonging

COURSE DESCRIPTION

'The yurt is a better logo for humankind than the stone cottage.'

– Barry Wellman

In this companion course to Cosmopolitan Citizenship, we will continue to investigate questions of home and belonging in the context of mobility and globalization. In the second part of the course we will build on our understanding of cosmopolitanism as a way of being in the world by considering the cultural aspects of cosmopolitanism. We will study narratives of tourism and migration to explore how the meanings of home and belonging are transformed through mobility and we will consider the possibilities for global belonging in the contemporary world. During this semester, you will continue to participate in a community-based project that gives you an opportunity to 'do' citizenship and to meet other global citizens while you reflect on theories of citizenship, home and belonging.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By participating in this course, you will:

- Supplement your understanding of the *civic* and *political* connotations associated with the concept of cosmopolitanism with an understanding of the *cultural* connotations of cosmopolitanism. This focus on cosmopolitanism and culture will bring your attention to the significance of such things as language, names, place and food in the performance of identity, home and belonging.
- Understand at a theoretical and a practical level how *local* experiences of home and belonging are related to *global* citizenship. This will involve reading and writing about key debates and discourses that surround questions of home and belonging in a global world as well as 'doing citizenship' by engaging in a community-based service project.
- Develop a critical approach to the politics of mobility and belonging by studying narratives of displacement, travel and migration and by considering the various conditions under which people travel.
- Use your sociological imagination to explore the interconnection between personal biographies of belonging and the broader context of globalization by conducting and analyzing an oral history or in-depth interview with a key respondent.

REQUIRED READINGS

- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri (Mariner Books, 2004)
- *Digging to America* by Ann Tyler (Ballantine Books, 2007)
- *Jasmine* by Bharati Mukherjee (Grove Press, 1999)
- *Unrooted Childhoods* ed. by Faith Eids and Nina Sichel (Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2004)
- COMMON TEXT: *The Story of the Cannibal Woman* by Maryse Condé (Atria, 2007)