

OSUN Online Courses Spring 2024

Anthropocene Geopolitics

Christopher Coggins, Bard College at Simon's Rock

Civic Engagement Certificate; Public Policy and Economic Analysis Certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 8, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM EST

How did the nation-state become the arbiter of territorial, political, economic, and ecological processes in a world in need of collective governance? This course examines contemporary geopolitical theory that addresses the radical socio-ecological changes of the Anthropocene. These works place humankind within the Earth's biogeochemical systems, opening new possibilities for collective accountability and justice across local, national, and global institutions that mediate international relations.

Prerequisites: One course in social studies or environmental studies.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Asia-Pacific International Politics in the Post-Pandemic Era

Chiahao Hsu, National Sun Yat-sen University

Human Rights Certificate

February 19, 2024 – May 26, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday 9:10 PM - 12:00 AM EST

2019 saw the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing global humanitarian disaster, and the political situation in the Asia Pacific saw unprecedented developments. This course will cover the region's recent political and economic changes, and use the lens of international relations to sharpen their analytical skills while cultivating their interest in the region. This course holds practical application of knowledge as its core and will discuss US, Chinese, Taiwanese, Northeast Asia, Southwest Asia, New Zealand and Australia, India, and



Central Asia. It is designed to cultivate students' analytical and research skills, as well as interest in Asia Pacific and international affairs.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Challenges of the 21st Century

Ekaterina Galimova, American University of Central Asia

Civic Engagement certificate; Global Education Development certificate

January 15, 2024 – May 15, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 4:35 AM - 5:50 AM EST

Challenges of the 21st Century is a seminar-based multidisciplinary, Liberal Arts course that introduces students to contemporary issues in such fields as politics, economics, environment, religion, culture, mass media, education, and psychology. Being the course with Experiential Activities, students will have an opportunity to evolve their leadership and teamwork skills when writing Grants, producing Videos, and working with kids at one of the orphanages launching Debate/Dance/Chess Clubs.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Child Rights Protection

Venera Urbaeva, American University of Central Asia

Civic Engagement certificate; Human Rights certificate; Public Policy and Economic Analysis certificate

January 16, 2024 – March 14, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM EST

Instructor: Around the world, children and adolescents make up over a quarter of the world population and are often the most vulnerable group at risk of violence, abuse, exploitation, and various forms of neglect. Children and adolescents are increasingly impacted by armed conflict, fragility, poverty, natural disasters, and climate change, facing intersecting vulnerabilities. Children affected by violence at home, in school, and online, children in conflict and contact with the law, children deprived of parental care, and children survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking experience multiple violations of their rights guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC).



This course explores the origins of child rights and the history of development of the main treaty that accords children their rights, the UN CRC. The course encourages students to understand factors that impact children's well-being and fulfillment of their rights from a human rights perspective. While diving into theoretical aspects, the course increasingly focuses on the practical application of knowledge gained through this course. As such, a field visit to a local social service center will be organized to learn about legal counseling and psycho-social support services available for children survivors of various forms of violence. Students dive into the fascinating multi-disciplinary angle of child protection understanding the various actors (state- and non-state stakeholders) that play a role in enhancing child and adolescent well-being and realization of their rights. The course enables students to analyze challenges that impact child rights implementation and ways to protect children and adolescents from harm so they can develop to their full potential.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Civic Engagement and Social Action

Jonathan Becker and Erin Cannan, Bard College

Civic Engagement Certificate

January 30, 2024 – May 23, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM EST

What does it mean to be engaged with your community? What can students participating in civic engagement projects learn from others in universities in places like Haiti, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh and the United States? This course will examine historical, philosophical and practical elements of civic engagement while exploring the underlying question of what it means to be civically engaged in the early 21st century. Together, students will explore issues related to political participation, civil society, associational life, social justice, and personal responsibility, as well as how issues like race and socio-economic status impact civic participation. The class reflects a balance between study and the practice of engagement, which includes interrogating theoretical notions of civic life, while also empowering students to be active participants in the communities in which they are situated. The culminating project asks students to propose a civic engagement project in their home or local community. This course will feature workshops, lectures and seminar



discussions. Special class visits will incorporate experiences of civic leaders, local officials, global not-for-profit leaders, and volunteers from communities proximate to participating OSUN campuses.

This course uniquely combines three types of course offerings into one. It is an OSUN Network Collaborative Course, an OSUN Online course (meaning it will be primarily offered online) and an Engaged Liberal Arts and Science (ELAS) course. This means that there are multiple ways we engage with ideas and people. The course is also a core course for OSUN's Certificate in Civic Engagement. There will be additional in-person meetings for students in Bard Annandale.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Climate Change Fiction: Human Rights and Anthro-Sociological Adaptations

Felix Kaputu, Bard College at Simon's Rock

Civic Engagement certificate; Global Education Development certificate; Human Rights certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 8, 2024

200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 10:05 AM - 11:30 AM EST

This course explores global fiction concerned with the ecosystem and climate change. The selected stories go beyond literary aesthetics and depict previously unknown environmental situations, forcing change in social connections and significant anthro-psychological adaptations. In that chaos, the course questions Universal Human Rights, specifically its articles about freedom, equality, and discrimination when the ecosystem turns the world upside down. No prerequisites.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Climate Change Science and Policy

Jennifer Cole, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement certificate; Food Studies certificate; Public Policy and Economic Analysis certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 24, 2024

100-Level; 200-Level



Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday; Friday 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

Climate change impacts us all. The media bombards us daily with the effects, policy, and financial aspects of this phenomenon. Few students and laypersons, however, understand completely the basic science of climate change. In this course, you will learn about the difference between climate change, the greenhouse effect, and global warming; the basic science of how our atmosphere formed, how it has changed through time, and how humans are impacting both weather and climate.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Conflict and Development

Bugra Güngör, American University of Central Asia

Human Rights certificate; Public Policy and Economic Analysis certificate

January 15, 2024 – May 15, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM EST

This course focuses on the links between conflicts and development. It discusses how institutional factors shape poverty and economic growth, and how economic factors influence institutions and political instability, with a particular focus on the role of natural resources. The goal of the course is to introduce key theoretical concepts and develop the policy analysis skills needed to understand and assess key arguments advanced in the broad field of political economy of development.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Disability, Adaptation and Participation

Felix Diaz, American University in Bulgaria

Civic Engagement certificate; Human Rights certificate; Public Policy and Economic Analysis certificate

January 23, 2024 – April 30, 2024

300-Level; 400-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Friday 7:15 AM - 8:30 AM EST

This course approaches physical, intellectual, sensorial and communication disability from a social model perspective. We will examine the environmental, cultural, and interactional adaptations available for persons with disability and explore their options in their constraints.



Each student will focus on a case using qualitative research techniques (interviewing, participatory observation and/or conversation analysis).

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Does Might Make Right? Ancient Perspectives on an Enduring Dilemma

Thomas Bartscherer, Bard College

Human Rights certificate

January 30, 2024 – May 21, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday 9:10 AM - 11:30 AM EST

Speaking at the United Nations in September 2021, U.S. Ambassador Linda

Thomas-Greenfield noted that in ratifying the Charter of the UN and adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the member states were disavowing the idea, as she put it, that "might makes right," and committing themselves instead to "a new set of self-binding principles" that aim to "prevent conflict, alleviate human suffering, defend human rights, and engage in an ongoing dialogue to improve the lives of all people." Her remarks evoke a famous passage from an English translation of the Greek historian Thucydides, often cited as the classical statement of political realism: "The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must." In this course, we will focus on the vibrant debate over the question of whether "might makes right" that occurs in the literary, historical, and philosophical writings of Athens in the fifth century BCE. Most of the texts we read will be ancient, but the questions they address are of urgent contemporary concern. We will look at the original context of that passage, wherein Thucydides conducts a subtle analysis of the claims of justice against the prerogatives of force. We will also see how this debate plays out in the philosophical writings of Plato and Aristotle and in contemporaneous literary texts, including the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. We will also compare material in ancient texts from other traditions, including the Buddhist Edicts of Asoka, the Hebrew Bible, and the Christian New Testament. Our aims will be: to see how these cultures, so different from the one that brought forth the UN's Universal Declaration, grappled with this enduring dilemma; to trace the influence of these ancient texts on modern conceptions of human rights; and to bring these diverse perspectives to bear on our own thinking about "might" and "right." All readings will be in English.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS



Earth Observations in Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals

Viktor Lagutov, Central European University

Civic Engagement certificate; Food Studies certificate

January 12, 2024 – March 29, 2024

200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Friday 2:50 AM - 4:30 AM EST

Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and associated indicators provide a global framework for action on sustainability. Earth observation (EO) is used to monitor and assess the status of, and changes in, the natural and manmade environment and can be used for monitoring SDGs by providing evidence, drawn from accurate and robust data, on a continuous basis. The aim of this course is to provide both theoretical foundation and practical introduction and gain initial understanding and basic practical skills of satellite-based remote sensing as one of the EO techniques. The course exposes students to the basic techniques and practical skills of digital image acquisition and processing; extracting relevant information from satellite imagery and combining it with on-ground observations. Examples of the Earth observation data use in practical decision- and policy-making processes will be given by practitioners in various SDG domains, e.g. disaster management, food security, sustainability, biodiversity conservation. The list of invited speakers features UN officers and geospatial industry representatives.

A particular focus of the course is on the application of the Google Earth Engine (GEE) - a cloud-based platform, which provides access to multiple repositories of satellite imagery and geospatial datasets allowing quick and accurate analysis and visualization of large datasets available in the cloud. Special attention is paid to basic analysis techniques of land use and land cover dynamics (for disaster management, food security, urbanization, climate change, etc). The course includes a theoretical overview of GEE's scientific principles, available datasets, methods and tools followed by hands-on in-class exercises, individual consultations with instructors, and work on the final individual project.

Prerequisites: Basic knowledge of mapping and visualization of geospatial data is expected from course participants. For CEU students: the course "Geospatial Technologies for Environmental Professionals (GST)" is enough. For other OSUN students, similar courses or evidence of some basic GIS skills are to be proven.



Credits: 2 US / 4 ECTS

Education and Development in a Global Era (Colloquium)

Jorge Baxter, Universidad de los Andes

Tamo Chattopadhyay, American University of Central Asia

Tolika Sibiyá, University of the Witwatersrand

Nazmin Sultana, BRAC University

Global Education Development certificate

January 31, 2024 – April 17, 2024

300-Level; 400-Level

Day/Time: Wednesdays 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM EST

This colloquium style course will feature talks by invited speakers - practitioners and advocates of educational development from around the globe, scholars from across the OSUN network - and challenge students to reimagine the possible. The COLLOQUIUM builds on the conceptual foundations of the GLOBALED CORE Course and encourages participants to consider what can be done to disrupt the status quo that leaves behind millions of children worldwide in a vicious cycle of poverty and under-education.

Prerequisite: Policy and Practice in Global Education (Gloaled Core).

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Education for Sustainable Development

Amadeus DeKastle, American University of Central Asia

Food Studies certificate; Global Education Development certificate

February 1, 2024 – April 25, 2024

400-Level

Day/Time: Thursday 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM EST

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Of course, all 17 goals work together to achieve this. However, it is important that we are not just "aware" of these goals, but that we can integrate them into our classrooms. Not just in a superficial way of talking about a few of the goals in a couple of pre-planned lessons, but in a more visceral way where these goals pervade everything from our personal educational philosophy to the way we run



daily classes. Why? Because for these goals to become reality by 2030, our students need to see them as something that is part of our/their lives, not just something we give lip service to in a few token lessons throughout the school year. This class endeavors to educate you on the background and importance of a selection of the goals as well as model a few ways to incorporate them into your classroom in conjunction with some fun new tech tools.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Energy in the 21st Century

Jennifer Cole, American University of Afghanistan

January 29, 2024 – May 24, 2024

200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday; Friday 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM EST

Fossil fuels provide most global energy needs, and they are finite and polluting. Non-polluting renewable energy sources are sustainable replacements. This course covers the benefits and drawbacks of fossil fuels, as well as the hurdles to implementing: hydro-, wave-power, biomass, solar, geothermal, wind, hydrogen, and nuclear. Science, technology, policy, and societal concerns will be integrated, as well as "smart" use of energy, storage, transportation, and housing.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Ethical Leadership

Brian Mateo, Bard College

Civic Engagement certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 22, 2024

100-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM EST

This course explores approaches to ethical leadership not just in the abstract, but as a discipline that is focused on action. As an approach to thinking through ethical leadership, the course is structured around the concerns explored in Dr. Mary Gentile's Giving Voice to Values framework. Students will read case studies, develop their own, and share with peers from across the globe, from New York to Bangladesh, Myanmar, Ghana and Colombia.

This course is also a Network Collaborative Course.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS



Ethics of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence

Chrys Margaritidis, Central European University

January 30, 2024 – May 21, 2024

200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Friday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

The course provides a forum for discussion on a selection of topics on the ethical aspects of Big Data and AI through mainly contemporary literature in the areas of ethics, law, and Big Data technology. We then debate case studies on Big Data and reach conclusions regarding the relevant ethical issues. In examining these cases, we will also discuss principles and problems of broader ethical significance. Topics discussed include democracy, trust, identity, privacy, and mass surveillance.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Fundamentals of Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Antiquities

Stephane Ipert, American University of Afghanistan

Human Rights certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 23, 2024

100-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Thursday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST

It is crucial to understand the illegal networks facilitating the trafficking of antiquities and old manuscripts. Equally important is a comprehensive grasp of the legal frameworks, including national laws and international conventions on this topic. The course will spotlight the roles of law enforcement agencies and professional organizations. Special focus will be given to studying the provenance of collections in western museums to trace both historical and recent illicit circulations and acquisitions, crucial for the restitution process.

Credits: 1.5 US / 3 ECTS

Governance of Environment and Sustainability

Aida Aidarova, American University of Central Asia

January 16, 2024 – May 9, 2024

400-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM EST



The aim of this course is to introduce students to the academic and policy debate on environmental governance and sustainability including the actors, causes, consequences, best practices and available solutions to the existing socio-environmental challenges. Students will be familiarized with the current approaches to environmental governance and sustainability as well as improve their understanding of the need and methods of good governance of environment and sustainability.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Human Rights, Disability, and Global Literature

Tabitha Kenlon, American University of Afghanistan

Human Rights certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 9, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Thursday 6:30 AM - 7:45 AM EST

This course examines disability from multiple perspectives: as part of the UN's human rights framework and as presented in fiction and nonfiction around the world. The reading material positions disability as a representational literary device, as an early example of the social model of disability, and as a powerful way for disabled people to tell their stories. Students will consider their own cultures' attitudes toward disability as they learn from the course's texts and each other.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

International Criminal Law

Mariya Zharylouskaya, European Humanities University

Human Rights certificate

March 13, 2024 – June 12, 2024

300-Level; 400-Level

Day/Time: Wednesday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST

The course provides the theoretical background of international criminal law, the case law of international tribunals, and the application of ICL in practice, taking into account modern challenges (the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, mass crimes against humanity in Africa, etc.).



The students will understand the concept of individual criminal responsibility; the types and structure of international crimes; immunities issues; the workings of international criminal tribunals, etc.

Prerequisites: English B1 (written and spoken).

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

International Environmental Law and Sustainable Development

Begaiym Esenkulova, American University of Central Asia

Human Rights certificate, Public Policy and Economic Analysis certificate

January 16, 2024 – May 16, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 7:25 - 8:40 AM EST

As the number of pressing environmental problems around the world is increasing, there is a growing need to understand the legal framework for environmental protection. The objective of this course is to provide students with sound knowledge of international environmental law and explore its nexus with sustainable development goals. The course covers sources, principles of international environmental law, and substantive regulation related to the protection of water resources, the atmosphere, biodiversity as well as waste management. In addition, special attention is paid to international environmental adjudication and mechanisms for facilitation of compliance. Apart from this, the course will explore the environmental dimensions of issues related to trade, intellectual property rights, human rights, business, and investment. In addressing these topics, the course will consider principles and goals of sustainable development as applied to them. All of the in-class activities and assignments are aimed at helping students not only to put substantive knowledge gained into practice but also further improve their proficiency in verbal and written communication as well as their analytical and problem-solving skills.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Introduction to Islamic Finance

Haroun Rahimi, American University of Afghanistan

Public Policy and Economic Analysis certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 9, 2024

100-Level



Day/Time: Monday, Thursday 10:30 AM - 11:50 AM EST

This course surveys the Islamic laws governing interest and commerce and introduces modern Islamic financial and banking instruments. Students make use of real cases and related current events, as well as comparative examples from different Muslim countries to enhance the learning experience. Guest lecturers working in the field of Islamic Finance will share their experiences, challenges, and successes working in this arena.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Kleptocracy

Daniel Calingaert, Bard College

Term: January 29, 2024 – May 15, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 8:30 AM - 9:50 AM EST

This course explores the causes, manifestations, and consequences of kleptocracy, both in diverse country contexts and internationally. It examines how kleptocracy emerged and has operated in Afghanistan, Russia, South Africa, and elsewhere and enriches select elites and their networks at the public's expense. The course then delves into the international enabling environment for grand corruption and the effects of kleptocracy on democratic governance and political stability.

Prerequisites: Principles of Microeconomics or other economics course; and Introduction to Political Science or Comparative Politics or equivalent.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Leadership, Writing & Public Speaking for Social & Environmental Justice

Jennifer Browdy, Bard College at Simon's Rock

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate

January 30, 2024 – May 7, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 10:35 AM - 12:00 PM EST

It's not enough just to care about an issue, you also have to learn how to communicate your passion in ways that inspire others to stand up and work for positive change. Drawing on the work of inspiring global leaders, we will explore the concept and practice of transformational leadership for social and environmental justice. Students will choose an issue to research and



write about, working collaboratively to explore various rhetorical approaches to advocating for positive social and/or environmental change. Using TED guru Chris Andersen's "official TED guide to public speaking" as a roadmap, students will practice writing and speaking in order to communicate their vision in as compelling a manner as possible. Students will come away from this course with a toolkit of skills and tactics for inspiring others, and a portfolio of their own efforts to speak out on issues of social and/or environmental justice. This is a six-week, half-semester class, with two synchronous 90-minute classes per week.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Leading Change for Sustainability

Caitlin O'Donnell and Aurora Winslade, Bard College

Sustainability and Leading Change Certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 22, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Mondays; Wednesdays 10:10 AM - 11:30 AM EST

This is a cross-institution course where student teams develop and advance proposals for organizational innovation within the university: local food, day-care, decarbonization. Students interact weekly with other OSUN campuses, combined with weekly in-person labs. Topics include understanding why change often fails, key factors that drive successful change, the role of the change facilitator, and tools for designing and facilitating processes that bring forth group intelligence.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Literature and Art from the Soviet Union

Maryna Batsman, American University of Central Asia

January 16, 2024 – May 7, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 4:35 AM - 5:50 AM EST

The course offers an overview of the most important literature and art produced in the Soviet Union from the 1917 Revolution until the country's dissolution in 1991. It examines works of prose and poetry from modernism to the 1950s - 1970s novel boom and early postmodernism of perestroika, as well as the concomitant movements in painting, film, and other fine arts. The required readings include short poems and stories of Mayakovsky, Akhmatova,



Mandelstam, Babel, Shalamov, and others, and some short novels (Solzhenitsyn, Bulgakov, Zamiatin, Yerofeyev, Platonov, or others). The art forms examined include the avant-garde (Malevich, Kandinsky, Eisenstein, etc.), Central Asian socialist realism (Chuikov, Aytiev, Obratsov, etc.), and a few examples of non-conformist art (Kabakov, Neizvestny, etc.). The course pays special attention to the changing and complex relationship between the artist and the state and the socio-political moment in which the particular work of art originated. The instructor will give a guided tour of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Bishkek. All readings and projections are in English.

Prerequisites: First Year Seminar, English Composition, or another freshman course equivalent to these (e.g. Academic Writing).

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Literature and Social Justice

Charlotte Fiehn, American University of Afghanistan

Human Rights certificate

January 30, 2024 – May 23, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 7:00 AM - 8:15 AM EST

What do "humanitarianism" and "human rights" have to do with the humanities? How can literature contribute to a consideration of these pressing questions? In a globalizing culture, our interest will be international, looking at ways in which personal stories contribute to political histories. In focusing on topics of "social justice," we will consider such questions as environmental justice, racial justice, women's rights, children, immigration, and refugees.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Modernism

Sean Homer, American University in Bulgaria

January 23, 2024 – May 9, 2024

300-Level; 400-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM EST

This course introduces students to one of the most important literary and artistic movements of the twentieth century, modernism. The course focuses on European and North American modernism stressing the international dimension of modernism. We will cover the period



from approximately the late nineteenth century and the emergence of modernism through the period of "high modernism" (1910-1925) to modernism's final exhaustion in the mid-twentieth century and the experiments of the French "nouveau roman". The course will emphasize the cultural diversity of this movement drawing upon a variety of literary texts including the critical essay, the literary manifesto, the short story, poetry, drama, the novel as well as painting and film. Finally, the course will contextualize these texts in terms of the social, historical, and political events of the time, paying particular attention to the transformation of subjectivity, time, and space.

Prerequisites: Completion of a composition class and one introductory-level Literature class.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Philosophy as Therapy

Anton Markoc, American University of Central Asia

January 16, 2024 – May 9, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 11:50 PM - 1:05 AM EST

This course examines ancient Greek and Roman philosophical classics in line with the therapeutic tradition of philosophy. We shall engage with selected works of Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Seneca, and Marcus Aurelius, along with contemporary scholarly essays by Pierre Hadot, Anthony Kenny, Myles Burnyeat, Julia Annas, Martha Nussbaum, and Michel Foucault.

Prerequisites: First Year Seminar or an equivalent freshman course.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Philosophy of Law

Kamila Mateeva, American University of Central Asia

Human Rights certificate

January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024

100-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM EST

Philosophy of law investigates the nature of law, especially in its relation to human values, attitudes, practices, and political communities. The course provides insight into the nature of law, its theoretical and philosophical foundations, and its origin. But of course, talking about law is impossible without covering what is a state, theories of state, functions, and



interrelations with law. We will also cover positive law theories and their reflections within the legal system of the state and their role in society.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Policy and Practice in Global Education

Tamo Chattopadhyay, American University of Central Asia

Global Education Development certificate

February 14, 2024 – May 1, 2024

300-Level; 400-Level

Day/Time: Wednesday 5:00 AM - 7:30 AM EST

This course is the CORE learning program of the OSUN Certificate in Global Educational Development. The course has been designed to introduce students to some of the key themes and critical issues in international educational development. It is widely understood that forces of globalization are profoundly changing the experiences and opportunity structures of young people in an increasingly interdependent world. Yet, while there is a growing recognition that the knowledge-based global economy requires a new paradigm for education in the 21st century, a significant number of children and adolescents in the world remain vulnerable, disengaged, and disenfranchised from education. COVID-19 has further exacerbated the level and intensity of this inequality. Against this backdrop, the course will examine the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that keep children excluded from schools and learning in different parts of the world. With Faculty members from a range of OSUN affiliated universities, the course will also critically examine some of the innovative policies and practices in diverse socio-cultural contexts that are addressing the challenges of educational access, quality, and equity in our interconnected world.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Politics as Method, Experience, & Practice: Critical-Existential Investigations

Asma Abbas, Bard College at Simon's Rock

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 8, 2024

100-Level; 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday and Wednesday, 1:05 - 2:30 pm EST



A critical, existential introduction to political inquiry, knowledge, and practice, drawing on political & social theory, political science, history, and cultural studies - this course attends to how we constitute our politics and learn to think, read, ask, and act politically, and to the relation of knowledge to political responsibility in these times. It provides some of the conceptual, experiential, & analytical tools for our vital engagements with the study, activity, and experience of politics.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Politics of Development

Azamat Sakiev, American University of Afghanistan

January 29, 2024 – May 1, 2024

200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM EST

This course explores development challenges in the Global South by addressing topics like colonization's legacy, conflicts, political systems, religion's role, sustainability, gender dynamics, and more. With 80% of the world's population living in this region, the course aims to foster a deep understanding of the processes there through critical analysis, discussions, and writing skills, highlighting the complexity of development in the Global South.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Queer(ing) Narratives: Race, Gender and Sexuality

Kathy-Ann Tan, Bard College Berlin

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate

February 2, 2024 – May 17, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Friday 3:00 AM - 6:00 AM EST

This seminar engages with queer theory as well as ways of queering dominant narratives and visual representations in an American context. We will examine how Queer of Color and intersectional feminist strategies of resistance complicate and challenge normative forms of narration and representation of race, gender and sexuality. We will read theoretical texts by a diverse group of scholars and bring them to bear on a range of contemporary literary texts, films and visual narratives.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS



Return of the Dead: Ghosts in Literatures of Violence

Zahid Rafiq, Bard College

Human Rights certificate

January 31, 2024 – May 15, 2024

300-Level; 400-Level

Day/Time: Wednesday 8:00 AM - 10:20 AM EST

In this course we will study literatures of violence inhabited by ghosts and ask of the texts and of ourselves, what are these ghosts, how do they act, and what do they want? Can ghosts be a cry for justice, a belief that the vanquished might return, a threat that trampled dust may gather into a storm? A king's ghost seeking revenge for his murder, a baby haunting her mother's house, and in a war zone a corpse hunting those responsible for killings, we shall reflect closely on ghostly existences.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Sciences During the Islamic Golden Age

Stephane Ipert, American University of Afghanistan

January 29, 2024 – May 23, 2024

100-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Thursday 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM EST

The development of Islamic knowledge from the 8th to 14th century started in Baghdad in the famous House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikmah, late 8th century), and experts from Central Asia were very dynamic there. It is certainly the missing link between the Antique sciences and the modern world which deserves to be discovered in the light of the latest research.

Students will learn about the history of sciences in the Islamic world but more importantly, they will learn how to use and analyze primary and secondary sources from libraries, archives and digital repositories. They will be able to use search tools and finding tools to be able to start research in their future studies.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Songs of Protest

Lina Kassem, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate

January 29, 2024 – May 8, 2024



100-Level; 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 9:00 AM - 10:20 AM EST

Explore the realm of protest songs, delving into their ability to voice dissent, catalyze change, and energize social and political movements. This course navigates diverse protest songs that have played a central role in shaping worldwide pursuits for justice, equality, and human rights. Immerse yourself in music from various cultures, analyzing its global impact.

Additionally, we'll investigate music's role in resistance and its multifaceted functions within organized protest movements.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Statistics in Action: From Clinical Trial to Social Action

Gabriel Perron, Bard College

February 1, 2024 – May 16, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Thursday, 9:00 AM - 11:20 AM EST

Statistics play a pivotal role in illuminating complex issues, from public health crises to the data mining of social media. Through real-life case studies, students will delve into how these mathematical tools uncover the root causes of significant events, even when masked by societal constructs. The primary aim of this course is to impart a broad statistical literacy relevant to fields ranging from the life sciences, data science,

economics, and social sciences. By adopting a problem-solving approach, students will become adept at employing advanced statistical modeling, such as analysis of variance and multiple regression, to apply hypothesis testing to diverse real-world situations. A significant component of this instruction includes using the R-programming environment, allowing students to compute and visually represent their analysis

outcomes using open-access software. Furthermore, students will engage in critical discussions about the controversies that have molded contemporary statistics, understanding its power and limitations, especially in big data and social justice. Prior knowledge of statistics or programming is not necessary.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Sustainable Development and Social Enterprise

Eban Goodstein, Bard College



Sustainability and Social Enterprise certificate

January 30, 2024 – May 23, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 AM - 09:50 AM EST

One way to achieve the UN SDGs is through social enterprise: creating mission-drive businesses and non-profit organizations. This cross-institution course provides a critical introduction to the SDGs, and the forces behind global change. Students will work with and learn from other classes in the global OSUN network, while conducting and sharing research projects on local enterprise solutions to issues like energy, food, affordable housing, immigration, or gender equity.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Technology, Humanity & the Future

Krista Caballero, Bard College

January 29, 2024 – May 21, 2024

100-Level; 200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 10:10 AM - 11:30 AM EST

In both theory and practice this course will explore the intersections of technology, justice, and creative practice. We will engage key texts alongside guest lectures from artists and activists across the OSUN network who are pushing boundaries to critically and creatively address the future of technology. Major themes include technology and the self, technology and community, technology and the environment. We will also experiment with both physical and digital media in hands-on explorations.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

The Beautiful Game: A Global History of Soccer

Lloyd Hazvineyi, Bard College

Human Rights certificate

January 30, 2024 – May 14, 2024

300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Soccer has enthralled and excited many audiences throughout the centuries. From the factory workers in Victorian England to colonial prisoners such as Nelson Mandela



incarcerated on Robben Island, to the streets of Sao Paulo Brazil, soccer has been one of the most consequential and celebrated sports. This course takes the position that soccer is more than just a game and invites students to consider and examine the cultural, social, and political meanings that societies around the world have attached to the beautiful game. The class situates the global history of soccer in the context of themes that include industrialization, settler colonialism, race, segregation, empire, violence, and corruption. As such, the class engages explicit political dimensions of soccer such as Catalan nationalist ambitions in Spain, which are often expressed in the Spanish derby, the El Clasico between Barcelona (from the Catalan region) and Real Madrid (from Madrid). The class also explores how soccer became entangled in anti-apartheid and anti-colonial struggles across the African continent. Through class readings, discussions, and documentary screenings, students will be expected to examine and comment on how dominant ideas about race, belonging, as well as social hierarchies have been negotiated on the field of play. The class foregrounds questions that seek to understand the role of sport in society, interrogating how soccer has not only mirrored society's prejudices but has often reproduced them.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

The Psychology of Authoritarianism

Amy Loewenhaar-Blauweiss, Bard College

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate

January 30, 2024 – May 21, 2024

100-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 9:00 AM - 10:20 AM EST

This course explores the psychological dimensions of authoritarianism: psychodynamic factors that predispose individuals to relinquish autonomy, susceptibility to authoritarian phenomena, the authoritarian personality, and the psychology of totalitarianism.

Perspectives include political psychology, psychoanalysis, psychohistory, critical theory, political science, social psychology, and sociology, as well as the link between creativity and enhanced resistance to authoritarianism.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

The Representation of Justice in Films

Sabine El Chamaa, Bard College



Human Rights certificate

February 2, 2024 – May 3, 2024

300-Level; 400-Level

Day/Time: Friday 09:30 AM - 12:00 PM EST

The course delves into the changing historical and cultural notions of justice and injustice while questioning ideologies inherent in the politics of representation. Students will acquire the analytical tools to read films as text through an interdisciplinary lens, drawing from readings in film theory, law and film studies, sociology, and post-colonial studies. The course will require film viewings and will be taught through a combination of lectures and debates.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

The Russia Paradox: Political History of the Russian Empire(s)

Victor Apryshchenko, Bard College

February 5, 2024 – May 24, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 08:30 AM - 09:50 AM EST

What realities, myths, objective patterns, and contradictions are concealed within the notion of the Russian Empire, including its pre-Soviet, Soviet, and post-Soviet incarnations? The country's political history of the last three centuries exemplifies such paradoxes as territorial and political unifications as well as disintegrations; forced Russification as well as ethnic diversity; ideological hegemony and cultural pluralism; blatant corruption, but also charity and compassion.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Thinking About Cities: Thinking About Scale

Ana Cukovic, Al-Quds Bard College

February 5, 2024 – May 20, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM EST

To think about cities is to think with scale. The core aim of the class is to critically reflect on multiple global, regional, and local forces that shape and relate to one another in the making and remaking of urban spaces. Cities, then, become expressions of economic, political, and social processes and dynamics that shape the everyday livelihoods of urban dwellers. Taking



cities around the world as examples, the class calls for a nuanced reflection on diverse factors that shape urban spaces.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

"What is to Be Done?": Experimenting With Dialogue

Sam Gilchrist Hall, Central European University

January 11, 2024 – March 31, 2024

200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Thursday 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM New York time / EST

This course entails studying the concept of dialogue theoretically and historically, before creating a podcast on the topic of "What is to be done?".

Credits: 2 US / 4 ECTS

Why Do Women Kill? Women's Rights in Global Context

Jannat Kovalchuk, American University of Central Asia

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate

January 18, 2024 – May 9, 2024

200-Level

Day/Time: Thursday 6:00 AM - 8:40 AM EST

The Why Do Women Kill course is intended to introduce students to the history of the development of women's rights, its domestic and international regulation. The course will cover historical aspects of different time periods, general overview of the criminal law and respective issues, international conventions and confrontation of domestic and international law. The course will review and discuss the current situation with women's rights internationally and in several countries as examples. The course is both interdisciplinary and comparative. The purpose of the course is to expose students to the complex issues - social, political, economic and legal - that characterize women's rights around the globe. Students will be asked to think critically about women's rights while thinking comparatively about the varying domestic and international settings that can alter the meaning and practical application of these rights.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

