

Online Courses Summer 2025

NOTE: Certificates marked with an asterisk, Democracy, Global Humanities, Global Studies, Technology and Society, and Sustainability and Climate Change, will be open for enrollment in Fall 2025. Courses will be counted towards them retroactively.

Civic Engagement in Repressive Contexts

Obaidullah Bahir, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement Certificate

The course seeks to help the students and professors of the course answer the classic question: “What is to be done (by us)?”. It does this through examining four themes: cultural freedom, investigating the arts and sciences as a key achievement of modernity and an important ground for civic engagement; media and autonomous publics, examining the notion of public life and the role a free public space plays in supporting alternatives to autocracies; politics as concerted action, considering how p

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Clicks, Likes, Shares, Votes: Media and Democracy in the Social Media Age

Darina Sarelska, American University in Bulgaria

Technology and Society certificate*

The impact of social networks on traditional media and democracy has become a major concern, leading to extensive research and the emergence of a new field. This course aims to provide an overview of the most recent research on the intersection of media and democracy, from a social media perspective, covering topics such as disinformation, political participation, protests, hate speech, political advertising, and media regulation.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Colonialism and Human Rights

Al-Quds Bard College

Human Rights certificate

This course aims to discuss colonialism and human rights through a cultural anthropological lens. In doing so, it will introduce students both to some valuable ethnographies and look at some rich cultural traditions, while at the time critically looking into anthropology’s colonial past and political and philosophical ramifications thereof.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Economics of Climate Change and Sustainability

Ceyhun Elgin, American University in Bulgaria

This course explores the economic dimensions of climate change and sustainability, including sustainable development. Topics include market failures, carbon pricing, policy solutions, and sustainable economic models. Students will analyze climate policies, international agreements, and real-world case studies. By the end, they will critically assess economic strategies for climate action and sustainability. Suitable for students with basic economics knowledge.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

EXPERIMENTAL FEMINIST / WOMAN'S POETRY (taught in Russian)

Galina Ryumbu, Smolny Beyond Borders

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

This course is about studying experimental feminist/ woman's poetry of various poetic cultures and Russophone literary environments through the 1980s to 2010s. Which experimental feminist/ woman's poetry methods are relevant to contemporary writing? How does a radical change of form correlate with sensitivity to language policies, and discourse of power? We will discuss this and other topics by referring to works of literary criticism, essays, and manifestos on the subject.

Prerequisites: When applying for the course, prospective students are obliged to provide one or more of their literary works (poetry, prose, essays, hybrid genres, etc.) or references to their already published research / literary works on the subject.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Extractive Industries Law, Environmental Protection, and Sustainability

Begaiym Esenkulova, American University of Central Asia

Human Rights certificate, Sustainability and Climate Change certificate*

This course will be focused on the comparative study of the legal framework of extractive industries, environmental protection, and sustainability. Course activities will help students apply the substantive knowledge gained in practice and improve their proficiency in verbal and written communication as well as analytical and problem-solving skills.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Fact-Checking for Civic Responsibility

Darina Sarelska, American University in Bulgaria

Technology and Society certificate*

Fact-Checking for Civic Responsibility focuses on media literacy and verification techniques to combat misinformation in civic spaces. The course emphasizes practical skills for critically engaging with online content, reflecting on the evolving landscape of fact-checking and content moderation on social media. Students will explore real-world case studies and collaborate with organizations like Poynter MediaWise, Google News Initiative, or other fact-checking initiatives to apply verification m

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Film Diary: Archiving of The Everyday

Mariya Godovannaya, Smolny Beyond Borders

It's a semi-practical seminar dedicated to diary film as an archival practice of the everyday. We will watch and discuss films that fall under the categories of "film diaries," "diary films," and "film letters" as well as engage with texts of filmmakers, poets, and scholars who orient themselves towards experimental cinematic worldmaking and storytelling. Moreover, we will make our own diary films trying to put together bits and pieces, scraps, and traces of our everyday into a film form.

Prerequisites: The students should have a basic knowledge of filmmaking: how to shoot and how to edit films.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development

Mairambek Nurgaziev, American University of Central Asia

Food Studies certificate, Human Rights certificate

This course examines food security and nutrition in the perspective of sustainable development and social stability, taking into account the role of financial markets, agri-business industries and international food, land, and commodity trading, while connecting these factors to broader global challenges such as food sovereignty, public health, economic growth, population dynamics, natural resource management, protecting ecosystems, climate change, complex emergencies, and forced migration, etc.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

GIS Application in Environmental Management

Sagynbek Orunbaev, American University of Central Asia

Sustainability and Social Enterprise certificate

This course provides an opportunity for students to develop a solid understanding of basic theories and analytical methods in Geographic Information Science. Students are also expected to strengthen their GIS skills through hands-on labs, exercises, and course projects. Putting these two aspects together, students measure their accomplishments in terms of an overall growth and maturity in modeling/analytical skills and problem-solving abilities using GIS.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Global Activism Through Theater

Aimée Michel, Bard College at Simon's Rock

Civic Engagement certificate

Because of its visceral, communal nature, theater has always been an agent for change across the globe. In this hands-on-course we will study theater companies that have affected political and social change through their activism. Students will work together in groups to identify concerns they want to address and create activist theater projects which address those concerns. Bread and Puppet Theater, Out of Hand Theater and other theater practitioners will visit our class to share their activism

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Introduction to Climate Finance

Ekramul Islam, BRAC University

We need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050 to have a chance to avoid catastrophic climate change. A conservative estimate of the financing needs to make that happen is between US\$ 4.5 to 5 trillion annually. How should these Climate Financing needs be met? This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the need for Climate Financing, the global landscape of Climate Finance, various private and public sector instruments, and its ethical debates.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

kNOwVAWdata: Know Violence Against Women Data

Jarkyn Shadymanova, American University of Central Asia

Civic Engagement certificate

The kNOwVAWdata Course, a partnership between AUCA, University of Melbourne, and UNFPA(Kazakhstan), addresses the global priority of combating violence against women (VAW). Recognizing the scarcity of high-quality data on VAW prevalence, the course offers a sustainable solution by building local capacities to collect, analyze, and communicate data. This course aims to build a global professional workforce that is data literate and skilled in undertaking reliable and ethical VAW research.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Leadership in Crisis

Zarlasht Sarmast, Bard College

Civic Engagement certificate

This course is designed for student leaders and students who are learning to lead. this course explores leadership strategies in high-stakes situations. Drawing on real-world experiences—such as the evacuation of Afghan students from Kabul to the US—students will engage with the challenges of decision-making under pressure. This course is open to all, including students across the network who face unique leadership challenges and are striving to build resilient communities in times of crisis.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Life Under Siege, Leningrad, Sarajevo and Gaza in Prose and Graphic Narratives

Anita Tarnai, Bard College

Global Humanities certificate*

This course explores everyday life under siege in Leningrad (1941-1944), Sarajevo (1992-1996) and Gaza (1967-present) in survivor narratives and through the lens of comic journalism (graphic novels) drawing from and building on the lived experiences of those living under siege. Key themes emerging in survivor testimonies such as life and death, family, gender, age, adaptation, resilience, creativity and role of the arts in survival will be examined along questions of visual representation of war in graphic novels. As part of our inquiries, students will explore what it means to be a witness to oneself as well as a witness to the testimony of others. Students will have the option to adapt survivor testimonies to written or visual/comic narratives as part of their class project.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Literature and Social Justice

Charlotte Fiehn, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate

What do “humanitarianism” and “human rights” have to do with the humanities? In what ways can literature contribute to a consideration of these pressing questions in the early 21st century? In a globalizing culture, our interest will be both international and domestic, 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, immigra

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Methodology of Science: Doubt, Truth, and Critical Thinking

Michael Allakhverdov, Smolny Beyond Borders

Public Policy & Economic Analysis certificate

Ever wondered why people trust science so much? What sets it apart from beliefs, rumors and pseudoscience? In this course, we'll dive into these questions and more. We'll uncover how science works and why it's reliable. We'll also discuss its role in uncovering truths about the world and its ethical considerations. Join us to learn how scientific thinking isn't just for scientists—it's a tool for everyday critical thinking.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Migration and Development

Nurgul Ukueva, Bard College

Public Policy & Economic Analysis certificate

This course aims at introducing students to the key facts and trends of international migration. Why do people migrate? What are the social and economic consequences of migration for countries and families left behind? What are the implications of migration of highly skilled workers? What is the role of migrant remittances? What challenges researchers face in identifying impact of migration? We will study migration within the context climate change, conflicts and aging population.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Migration, Cultural Identity and Global Citizenship

Hidayet Siddikoglu, American University of Afghanistan

Global Education Development certificate, Global Studies certificate*

This course aims at introducing students to the key facts and trends of international migration. Why do people migrate? What are the social and economic consequences of migration for countries and families left behind? What are the implications of migration of highly skilled workers? What is the role of migrant remittances? What challenges researchers face in identifying impact of migration? We will study migration within the context climate change, conflicts and aging population.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Political Economy

Danila Raskov, Bard College

Public Policy & Economic Analysis certificate

The course on the history of political economy will address the intellectual history of this discipline understood in the evolutionary context. It aims to introduce students to the origins of modernity, state, market, and democratic institutions, and to familiarize themselves with important politico-economic texts with close readings of Bodin, Serra, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Justi, Smith, Marx and others.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Public International Law

Haroun Rahimi, American University of Afghanistan

Global Studies certificate*, Human Rights certificate

This course introduces international law, covering both theoretical and practical approaches. The course provides an overview of topics such as sources of international law, the relationship between domestic law and international law, international dispute resolution, the use of force, human rights, international humanitarian law, international criminal law.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Race, Health and Inequality: A Global Perspective

Dumaine Williams, Bard College

Human Rights certificate

This course will explore the causes and consequences of racial and ethnic health inequities and examine the history of how different countries have responded to these inequities. We will also explore how various populations around the world respond and adapt to new outbreaks of disease and illness, and the factors that limit the effectiveness of these

responses. We will examine how community-based activism and large-scale social movements could move countries closer to achieving health equity.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Songs of Protest

Lina Kaseem, Parami University

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate

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

The Divided Self

Zahid Rafiq, Bard College

Human Rights certificate

In this course we look through works of literature at people who are at war within themselves, at lives that become places of contestations. We will encounter and study characters who act, or are supposed to act, or are dealing with the consequences of their actions, in ways that have left them divided, people whose desires cut through them, or people simply caught in situations where they split from within.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

The Multidimensional Legitimation Strategies of Authoritarian Regimes

Francesca Chiarvesio, Central European University

Civic Engagement certificate, Democracy certificate*

The course offers a general introduction to the concepts of political legitimacy in authoritarian contexts by focusing on the case of Russia from the early 2000s until today. The aim is to familiarize students with the scholarship of democratic backsliding, political legitimization strategies, and the mechanisms of co-optation of forces of democratization such as civil society and the middle class. The course is timely as it provides the tools to understand the current wave of authoritarianism.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

The Representation of Justice in Films

Sabine El Chamaa, Bard College

Human Rights certificate

This course examines the intersection between Justice and Cinema in seminal international fiction and non-fiction films. Students critically engage with the historical (and current) role of film in representing the court, and with representations of 'right versus wrong'. Through analysis and class debates, readings in film theory and sociology, the intrinsic link between perceptions of justice and injustice, and movies is revealed.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Thinking About Democracy

Christopher Henderson, American University of Afghanistan

Democracy certificate*

The course aims to illuminate and encourage students to critically appraise democracy as a normative ideal and as a set of practices. This course will be centred around a series of dialogues between Jeffrey C. Goldfarb and colleagues focused on key short texts that will be discussed and analyzed further in face-to-face seminars, allowing students to question and probe the ideas therein. The goal is a more nuanced understanding of what democracy is/is not and could be.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

United Nations and Multi-Lateral Diplomacy

Shoaib Timory, American University of Afghanistan

Global Studies certificate*, Human Rights certificate

This course examines how the UN plays a vital role in global diplomacy, security, and international law. It explores the UN institutional structure, human rights contributions, and practical application of international law. It also examines the UN's role in sanctions, humanitarian efforts, and engagement in conflict settings. Students gain insights into multilateral negotiations, consensus-building, and conflict resolution.

Prerequisites: Preliminary classes that are taught during the first year. These include history, introduction to laws and politics, etc.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Using Large Language Models in Political Science

Gennadii Iakovlev, Central European University

Democracy certificate*, Technology and Society certificate*

This course focuses on applying modern LLM-based techniques in political science. and offers a structured overview. Over 4 weeks (11 150-minute sessions), we will cover the foundations of NLP, explore applications, employ LLM-based analysis, and learn how to assess the reliability and validity of these methods critically. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with both the theoretical understanding and practical tools to incorporate the LLM-driven NLP into their own research. This course will hold a 30-minute break during each class session.

Prerequisites: A strong interest in empirical research methods. No prior programming background is strictly required, though familiarity with basic data analysis methods is recommended.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Visual Language of Hate and Dominance

Konstantin Gaitanzi, European Humanities University

Civic Engagement certificate, Human Rights certificate, Public Policy & Economic Analysis certificate

The course is focused on history and practices of military propaganda in European poster design. The aim of the course is to impart to students the knowledge and competencies related to the history and practice of the propaganda poster, linking it to the European experience of authoritarianism and totalitarianism in the 20th century.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Women Rights, Human Rights, and International Law

Fereshta Abbasi, American University of Afghanistan

Human Rights certificate

The course explores the intricate issues encompassing women's rights including social, political, economic, and legal dimensions.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS