

Global Civics:

How Do We Survive and Prosper In an Interdependent World?

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It has become clear that we live in an increasingly interdependent world. Financial engineering in the United States or bookkeeping around Greek public finances can determine employment and economic growth in every other part of the world; carbon dioxide emissions from China can affect crop yields and livelihoods in Bangladesh, Vietnam, and beyond; an epidemic in Vietnam or Mexico, or a nuclear leak in Japan, can determine the state of public health halfway around the world. What is less clear is what sort of responsibilities we have towards each other. Without at least a draft of a global social contract, it would be next to impossible for us to navigate our epic global interdependence. This course is predicated on the conviction that leadership, as well as a well-rounded university experience, in the 21st century has to include a conversation about our responsibilities towards the whole of humanity, and the corresponding rights we all have. The course aims to identify and analyze the centripetal forces which push us together and intermix our fates. We will then discuss what, if any, responsibility we all have towards others, with whom we share our planet and destinies, but not our citizenship. We will review various arguments for normative and technocratic frameworks to manage our interdependence. At the end of the course, each student will participate in thought experiments to explore and develop her or his version of a global civics.

Active participation by the students will be key to the success of the course, and form the crucial part of the grading for the course. Students will write short pieces at the end of each class. Final grades will be based on class participation including weekly writing assignments (60%), and the final paper or performance (40%).

Week 1 Introduction

In this first week, we will start out by sketching the narratives and the parameters of our interdependence. We will ask whether a global civics is necessary or feasible, and what it would entail. The class will review the course outline and course materials, and divide up the presentations for the rest of the semester.

Readings:

Executive Summary of *Citizens in an Interconnected and Polycentric World*

Executive Summary of *Global Trends 2030*

Week 2 The Global Village

We are increasingly more aware of each others' bliss and grief. First satellite broadcasting and later internet have made news and meta-narratives from different parts of the world accessible to many of us. This has meant a greater awareness and affinity across the world. Does that mean we live in a global village? We will unpack these thesis and start with a video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AE4HaEvO5zk>) by Ethan Zuckerman of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Readings:

Imagined Communities by Anderson, Chapter 2.

The New Digital World by Schmidt and Cohen, Introduction and Conclusion.

Week 3 Centripetal Forces: International Trade

There are many dynamics pushing us together. Movement of goods, or international trade, is the oldest of these centripetal forces. What is the history and the current state of international trade? How have trade regime and dispute settlement mechanisms evolved? What does international trade tell us about our interdependence and how to manage that interdependence? We will start our inquiry with a video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MORVwZcg1to>) by Mohamed Razeen Sally from National University of Singapore.

Readings:

A Movable Feast: Ten Millennia of Food Globalization by Kenneth Kiple, Introduction and Chapter 1.

The Globalization Paradox by Rodrik, Chapter 3 and 4.

Week 4 Centripetal Forces: Climate Change

Climate change may well be the toughest problem that humanity has faced in many decades. It is one problem whose consequences even the mightiest states cannot stop at their borders. As the quintessential manifestation of our interdependence, it merits our attention and inquiry. We will have a video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRikiTU9U9E>) by Hans Joachim Schellnhuber of Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

Readings:

4th Assessment Synthesis Report by IPCC

World Energy Outlook 2011, Chapter 8

11th Hour by Leila Connors Petersen and Nadia Connors

Climate Analysis Indicators Tool by World Resource Institute

Week 5 Centripetal Forces: Global Economy

Cross-border consequences of the decisions in the fields of finance and economy have become especially evident after the 2008 crisis. How best to manage the cross-border externalities of financial and economic decisions of major actors in the world is one of the tougher puzzles of our world. These decisions are made against a backdrop of overall convergence. After 200 years of divergence, the distance between the affluent West and the rest of the world seems to be narrowing. This tectonic shift will inform the substance and the tonality of our global debates. We start this inquiry with a video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E70qjbOJeY>) by Amar Bhattacharya of G24.

Readings:

The Globalization Paradox by Rodrik, Chapter 10.

Tricky Tax: Transfer Pricing by Tax Justice Network

Week 6 Centripetal Forces: Pandemics

Pandemics such as the cholera and the plague have been one of the oldest centripetal forces intermixing our fates. Since the 19th century, the world has experimented with different options to contain the spread of pandemics, while balancing commercial and political interests. We now have a solid reservoir of experiences and know-how. In a video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHquS5qwcBo>), Mark Harrison from University of Oxford reviews that reservoir, and identifies challenges for the future.

Readings:

2007 World Health Report, Chapter 2

The Better Angels of Our Nature by Steven Pinker, pages 31-36, 47-56, 193-200, 249-255, 571-592 (in the hard cover edition)

Week 7 Centripetal Forces: Nuclear Arms

The world may be getting healthier and less violent, but we still possess enough nuclear arms to make the world uninhabitable. What has been the history and the dynamics of nuclear proliferation? What is the state of the effort for total nuclear disarmament. We start this important review with a video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZB9e1M0GL0>) by Dingli Shen of Fudan University in China.

Readings:

The Age of Deception by Elbaradei, Introduction and Conclusion

"Towards A Nuclear-Free World" by Kissinger et al, *Wall Street Journal*

Week 8 Normative Dilemmas: Inequality

A world, where we are increasingly more aware of each others' bliss as well as grief, presents us with a growing range of normative dilemmas and imperatives. Inequality is one such dilemma. This week we will examine whether the world is getting more or less unequal. Branko Milanovic of the World Bank, who produced much of the data and analysis on these issues, will kick us off with a video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MEsyPDnAPY>).

Readings:

The Haves and the Have-Nots by Branko Milanovic, Sections 1.3, 2.3, and 3.1

"The World Distribution of Human Capital, Life Expectancy and Income" by Murtin and Morrison

Week 9 Normative Dilemmas: Poverty

Now that we have a sense of the size and trajectories of major global inequalities, we focus on poverty. What has been the trend for poverty? What do we know about what works in poverty elimination? What are national and international responsibilities? Dani Rodrik from Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton sets us off on our review of poverty and development (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzWEeeAnjak>).

Readings:

Poor Economics by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, Chapter 2

The White Man's Burden by William Easterly, Chapter 1

"Economics and Emigration: The Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk" by Michael Clemens

Week 10 Normative Dilemmas: Responsibility-To-Protect

In addition to gross and growing inequalities and crippling poverty, spectacle of genocides and other mass atrocities trigger strong reactions from the global community. The practice which used to be called Humanitarian Intervention has evolved into Responsibility-to-Protect. Gareth Evans, now President of the Australian National University, has played a key role in that evolution, and gives us an account of that process and the current state of this new norm in his video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRiDslbGojU>).

Readings:

We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed with Our Families by Philip Gourevitch, Chapters 1-3

Dancing in the Glory of Monsters by Jason Stearers, Introduction, Chapter 1 and Conclusion

A United Nations Emergency Peace Service to Prevent Genocide and Crimes against Humanity

Shoah by Claude Lanzmann (Recommended but not required)

Week 11 Normative Dilemmas: Global Justice and the International Criminal Court

Military intervention is not our only defense against mass atrocities around the world. In the 21st century, we have also founded the International Criminal Court. Luis Moreno Ocampo, now of New York University, was the first prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, and he situates the ICC in the history of the quest for global justice (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UxQKFQa9iQ>).

Readings:

Understanding the International Criminal Court

"Is It Possible to Punish Aggressive War-Making?" by Hans-Peter Kaul

Week 12 Values in an Interdependent World

We have reviewed a wide range of centripetal forces pushing us together and many normative imperatives. Do we have the cultural toolkit and the meta-language to conceptualize our interdependence and the obligations we have towards each other? Thaddeus Metz of the University of Johannesburg surveys major philosophical and religious traditions from around the world in terms of their accounts of interdependence and other-regarding obligations in his video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1lIC46REjo>).

Readings:

One World by Peter Singer, Chapter 1

Cosmopolitanism by Kwame Appiah, Chapter 10

"Ubuntu" by Desmond Tutu in *God is Not a Christian*

Week 13 Global Governance, Global Public Goods

Our interdependence does not provide us only with a normative puzzle, but also an institutional one. How are we to manage our global problems in the absence of a global government? Does

thinking about our challenges as global public goods help us solve them? Distinguished statesman and academic, Javier Solana of ESADE, sketches the answers in his video lecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTrWvao8cio>).

Readings:

Report of the International Task Force on Global Public Goods, Parts I and II

Power and Responsibility by Bruce Jones, Carlos Pasqual, Stephen John Stedman, Chapters 1-2

Week 14 Presentations

In this final session, each student will present her/his version of a global civics to the class. Formats of the presentations will be discussed and finalized with each student at office hours during previous weeks. Group presentations and performances will be encouraged.

Reading:

Dialogues on Global Civics (<http://www.globalcivics.net/#!global-civics-recommended-readings/c1hp5>)