

OSUN Online Courses Summer 2024

Algorithmic Fairness

Inesa Stolper, European Humanities University

Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 5, 2024

Level: 100-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

Algorithmic fairness is a field that discovers causes of bias in algorithms through measurements of fairness. This interdisciplinary course examines the intersection between the fast integration of artificial intelligence in diverse areas of societal life and its implications on human rights. By exploring ethical dimensions and the concept of fairness, it equips students with a critical framework for addressing the complexities of AI development and use in various contexts.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Art, Decolonization, and Human Rights in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

Mariana Bodnaruk, Al-Quds Bard College

Term: June 3, 2024 – July 11, 2024

Level: 100-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM EDT

This course is a general introduction to art as a creative practice addressing social and human rights issues in the rapidly evolving digital world, and it aims to familiarize students with the current approach of decolonization in art history, whose disciplinary origins are themselves inextricable from colonialism and imperialism. In the contemporary digital era art remains a material participatory practice, materializing out of a previous division of space, time, and labor.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Bewilderment of the Naive

Zahid Rafiq, Bard College

Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 3, 2024 – July 12, 2024

Levels: 200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Friday 8:00 AM - 11:15 AM EDT

What does it mean to be naive? Who is naive? What does the world do with naive people? Why and how does it tend to turn the naive into 'worldly'? What do we lose when we become worldly? What do we lose if we remain naive? In this course we shall look at the world through the eyes of naive people. From a young man turning away from a riotous city to a child's uninitiated view of racism to a man lost in the labyrinth of law, we shall try to see what lies within this naiveté.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Civic Engagement and Social Action

Brian Mateo, Bard College

Civic Engagement Certificate

Term: June 3, 2024 – July 11, 2024

Level: 100-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM EDT

One way to think about civic engagement is to explore how it relates to making a difference mainly in the civic life of our communities and to develop the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. This course provides a forum for discussing a selection of topics on civic engagement through mainly contemporary literature. An important part of the course requires students to work together and create a project proposal for the needs of their local community.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

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

Darina Sarelska, American University in Bulgaria

Civic Engagement Certificate

Term: June 11, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Levels: 200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT

InstructorThe 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

Climate Change Science and Policy

Jennifer Cole, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement Certificate, Food Studies Certificate, Public Policy and Economic Analysis Certificate

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 6:30 AM - 9:30 AM EDT

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: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Documenting African American and Youth Voter Suppression

Lisa Katzman, Bard College

Civic Engagement Certificate

Term: June 3, 2024 – July 10, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM EDT

The course will engage students in an interdisciplinary examination of the history of the disenfranchisement and enfranchisement of African Americans and youth voting rights; the social movements, amendments to the constitution, and legislation that substantially overcame voting rights inequities, as well as current advocacy efforts to oppose and reverse restrictions imposed on voting rights through the courts and at the state level.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Economics of Poverty, Inequality, and Discrimination

Ceyhun Elgin, American University in Bulgaria

Human Rights Certificate, Public Policy and Economic Analysis Certificate

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Levels: 100-Level; 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM EDT

Instructor: The course consists of four parts: In the first part, we will discuss the definitions of poverty and inequality and how the official definitions affect our understanding of their trends. In the second part we will spend time discussing policies intended to reduce both. The third part goes over macroeconomic studies through the lenses of development economics. Finally, the last part intends to familiarize students with recent developments in the study of the economics of distribution.

Prerequisites: Principles of Microeconomics/Macroeconomics or Principles of Economics

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Energy in the 21st Century

Jennifer Cole, American University of Afghanistan

Food Studies Certificate

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT

Fossil fuels provide most global of 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: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Experimental Feminist / Woman's Poetry (Taught in Russian)

Galina Ryumbu, Smolny Beyond Borders

Term: June 6, 2024 – August 22, 2024

Level: 300-Level

Day/Time: Thursday 1:50 AM - 4:50 AM EDT

The course is about studying feminist poems created during 1980-2010s in various poetic cultures. How does the change in poetic form relate to sensitivity to language politics, power discourses, and linguistic violence? Can feminist writing be complex and inclusive at the same time? These and other questions will be examined in the course, drawing on poetic and critical texts which various visions of women’s subjectivity, as well as the role of language and experiment in feminist writing.

Prerequisites: When applying for the program, a candidate must submit one or more of their literary pieces (in the form of poetry, prose, essays, hybrid genres, etc.) or links to already published research, essay, or literary works on the topic of the course.

Credits: 1 US / 2 ECTS

Extractive Industries Law, Environmental Protection, and Sustainability

Begaiym Esenkulova, American University of Central Asia

Food Studies Certificate, Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 4, 2024 – July 11, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM EDT

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

Film Diary: Archiving of The Everyday

Mariya Godovannaya, Smolny Beyond Borders

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 3, 2024

Levels: 200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT

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 have to have a basic knowledge of filmmaking: how to shoot and how to edit films.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Gender, Sexuality, and Visual Resistance

Molly Stinchfield, Bard College

Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 4, 2024 – July 11, 2024

Level: 100-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT

This course analyzes international artist responses to increasing homophobia, sexism, and racism, specifically considering the gap between artists' intention and the impact of their work on marginalized communities. We will interrogate how visual culture can both reinforce and combat stereotypes against disenfranchised people, consequently affecting laws and policies. What roles and responsibilities do artists, critics, and museums have in human rights issues? Can social media be used for emancipation when algorithms favor dominant groups? Does representing violence reinforce violence? Do documentary media makers unintentionally harm communities? How can artists be agents of change while struggling for the right to survive? We will explore visual and performance art (including film, television, and new media) since World War I and the successes and failures of visual messaging in relation to the ever-evolving Overton window, the spectrum of acceptable policies. From the "Degenerate Art" of Weimar Germany to the HIV/AIDS activist collectives of the 1980s to the contemporary women-led resistance against the "morality police" in Iran, we will examine the power struggles between artists and society. Theorists include Barthes, Coleman, Debord, Hill Collins, Linfield, Solomon-Godeau, Sontag, and Stychin.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

GIS Applications in Earth Sciences

Sagynbek Orunbaev, American University of Central Asia

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 5, 2024

Levels: 100-Level; 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday; Friday 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT

GIS is the technology of problem-solving and geographical data - a data set with which climate scientists work most often - presents many problems. GIS is growing and becoming vital to most sciences, right across the board in the public and private sectors, everyone is realizing the benefits that digital mapping can bring to the industry, to town planning, resource management and allocation, conservation, and infrastructure management.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Global Activism Through Theater

Aimée Michel, Bard College at Simon's Rock

Civic Engagement Certificate

Term: June 11, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM EDT

In this course we will explore how the art form of theater has been used directly and consciously across the globe over the past century as an agent of social and political change. Students will study activists like Augusto Boal and Bread and Puppet Theater as well as theater activists in their countries and present to each other their work. The final project will be a theatrical presentation that addresses a current global issue. Daily contributions to our online discussion board are required.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Global Freedom of Expression

Jacqueline Allain and Jonathan Friedman, Bard College

Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Level: 100-Level

Day/Time: M/T/Th 8:30 AM EST-11:00 AM EST

This course will provide students a foundational understanding of free speech and the freedom of expression in the global, digital era. It will introduce students to a broad range of topics, including: human rights conventions and laws, the modern history of free expression, and contemporary issues related to the Internet, protest, political dissent, hate, and freedom of the press. The course will examine intersectional case studies, where contemporary national contexts are used to highlight global thematic trends. One thread of the course will draw on the work of PEN America and the human stories of writers, artists, and journalists who dare to use free expression to confront autocratic regimes. Another thread will aim to contextualize current tensions surrounding free expression and social justice activism in the United States and other Western countries.

Credits: 3 U.S. / 6 ECTS

GIS Applications in Earth Sciences

Sagynbek Orunbaev, American University of Central Asia

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 5, 2024

Levels: 100-Level; 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday; Friday 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT

GIS is the technology of problem-solving and geographical data - a data set with which climate scientists work most often - presents many problems. GIS is growing and becoming vital to most sciences, right across the board in the public and private sectors, everyone is realizing the benefits that digital mapping can bring to the industry, to town planning, resource management and allocation, conservation, and infrastructure management.
Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Global Middle Ages?

Victor Apryshchenko, Bard College

Term: June 11, 2024 – July 3, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday 10:10 AM - 12:40 PM EDT

This course surveys world medieval history between two climate catastrophes – the climatic dark age between 500 and 900 CE of the fourth and fifth centuries, and the Little Ice Age of the seventeenth century. The course has purposefully highlighted cutting-edge world history research on a wide range of topics that appeal highly to students, such as gender, race, migration, the environment, trade, and technological changes.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Migration and Development

Nurgul Ukueva, American University of Central Asia

Public Policy and Economic Analysis Certificate

Term: June 3, 2024 – July 12, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday; Friday 8:45 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

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 do researchers face in identifying impact of migration? We will study migration within the context of climate change, conflicts and aging population.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Military Economics

Adem Elveren, American University in Bulgaria

Public Policy and Economic Analysis Certificate

Term: June 3, 2024 – July 11, 2024

Levels: 100-Level; 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM EDT

Instructor: Military economics is an intermediate-level course that studies the impact of military spending on economic growth, profit rates, income inequality, and gender inequality. This course covers major schools of economic thought to understand the role of military production in the economy by focusing on both theoretical and empirical models. The course evaluates the implications of military economics from a political economy perspective.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Muslim Women Write: Social Equality and Cultural Representation

Elizabeth Lowry, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement Certificate

Term: June 11, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Levels: 200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

Focusing on Muslim women's writing, this course engages students with literature representing multiple genres and geographic regions. We consider Muslim women's experiences and how (often from the margins), they make their voices heard across the world. From exploring themes of identity and belonging, to confronting societal norms and challenging stereotypes, we will examine literature as a tool for empowerment and self-expression.

Prerequisites: For AUAF students: FYS 105, 106 and ENG 105, 106.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Plato

Isaac Wilhelm, American University of Afghanistan

Term: June 11, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Level: 100-Level

Day/Time: Tuesdays; Thursdays 1:30 AM - 4:30 AM EDT

Instructor: Plato is one of the most innovative and influential philosophers in history. In this course, we will discuss 7 different readings. Through these readings, we will learn both about the world itself and about the tools that comprise Plato's critical methodology for studying the world.

Credits: 1.5 US / 3 ECTS

Politics of Development

Azamat Sakiev, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement Certificate, Global Education Development Certificate

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Level: 300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

Instructor: 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

Public Finance and Economic Policy

Kyle Mohr, Bard College

Public Policy and Economic Analysis Certificate

Term: June 24, 2024 – July 19, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday; Friday 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT

Recent crises have taught us that governments must act decisively to tackle these challenges, not leave solutions exclusively to private actors. This led to a rethinking of the role of the state on a global scale. What are the policy options before governments? What are their abilities to achieve them? What constraints do they face? This course will provide a new framework for thinking about these questions and with concrete tools and techniques to explore these policy-relevant concerns.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Race, Health and Inequality: A Global Perspective

Dumaine Williams, Bard College

Human Rights Certificate, Public Policy and Economic Analysis Certificate

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 4, 2024

Level: 100-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT

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. This course will also explore how various populations around the world respond and adapt to new outbreaks of disease and illness, factors that limit the effectiveness of these responses, and examine how community-based activism and large-scale social movements could move countries closer to achieving health equity.

Credits: 4 US / 8 ECTS

Russian Cultural Revolution of the 1920s - 1930s (taught in Russian)

Ilya Kalinin, Smolny Beyond Borders

Term: June 3, 2024 – July 10, 2024

Level: 300-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Wednesday 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM EDT

The subject of the course is political theories, as well as artistic and everyday practices of the 1920-1930s, associated with the production of a new subject (the formation of specific ideas in the field of physiology, psychology, pedagogy, ethnography, philosophy of language and literary theory, etc.) and the new Soviet everyday culture (from new practices of gender relations to the development of hygiene programs and physical education programs).

Prerequisites: Good command of the Russian language, allowing students to read and discuss texts in the original language

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Songs of Protest

Lina Kassem, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement Certificate, Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 10, 2024 – July 3, 2024

Level: 200-Level

Day/Time: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT

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 Politics of Memory and Justice in Transitional Societies

Jessie Barton-Hresonova, American University of Afghanistan

Term: June 24, 2024 – August 26, 2024

Level: 300-Level

Day/Time: Monday 4:30 AM - 6:00 AM EDT

This course sits at the intersection of two related fields: transitional justice that studies ways to deal with past human rights violations and memory politics that looks at who and how creates, transmits and reinvents collective memories and to what political purpose. By exploring the multifaceted and often country-specific approaches to justice and memory, we will evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of the various methods of dealing with the past and study how new memory regimes have been forged in the post-World War II period.

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Visual Language of Hate and Dominance

Konstantin Gaitanzi, European Humanities University

Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 1, 2024 – July 5, 2024

Levels: 200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Wednesday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

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. The module consists of two main blocks, the titles of which refer to G. Orwell's novel 1984, which presents a highly accurate and compelling reflection on totalitarian societies. The first, "War is Peace," is a theoretical analysis of the political and aesthetic tools of military visual propaganda. The second "Oceania was at war with Eurasia; therefore Oceania had always been at war with Eurasia" is practical, when students, divided into two groups, create visual propaganda for two fictitious states - Oceania and Eurasia. The results are demonstrated and discussed in a final public seminar. On-line or off-line exhibitions are organized. The core texts are significant works of art history, social theory, fiction (both novel and short story).

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS

Visual Significance of Money

Kseniya Shtalenkova, European Humanities University

Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 4, 2024 – July 27, 2024

Level: 300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Thursday 8:10 AM - 11:20 AM EDT

This course outlines the academic perspective of the visual conceptualization of money. It covers the topics on the visibility of money in the framework of symbolic exchange, as well as on the ideological implications of visual representations in currency design, money as cultural heritage, visual aspects of electronic money, and money functions beyond economics. As a result, the students will learn about the specifics of social relations hidden behind money that can be traced visually.

Prerequisites: English B2, access to any word processing application providing the option to save files in the PDF format, access to Google Slide or Canva to create visual presentations. No artistic or design skills required.

Credits: 2 US / 4 ECTS

Women Rights, Human Rights, and International Law

Fereshta Abbasi, American University of Afghanistan

Civic Engagement Certificate, Human Rights Certificate

Term: June 5, 2024 – July 13, 2023

Levels: 100-Level; 200-Level; 300-Level

Day/Time: Tuesday; Saturday 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM EDT

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

Credits: 3 US / 6 ECTS