What Does It Mean to Be a Global Citizen?

“From Civil Rights to Citizens of the World”
&
“The Election of 2020”

FALL TERM 2020
Are we the citizens we want to be or can we do better?
If we can do better, what capacities do citizens need to cultivate to guarantee the vitality of a modern democracy, to deliberate together to decide about the public good?
Many Americans are pulled in two different directions. On the one hand, many want to be left alone to pursue their own projects and plans; on the other, many, sometimes these very same citizens, yearn to participate in a more meaningful public life in pursuit of goals that reflect a common purpose.
Still, citizenship to most Americans is a matter of private rights rather than a set of public responsibilities, a defensive strategy against powerful governors. But have we become too defensive? too focused on rights, too private to sustain a vital democracy in the new millennium?

I. Introduction
The course will focus on the role of the citizen in the world’s democracies in 2020. It will consist of five parts:

(1) An opening section in which the examples of Socrates, Antigone, Thoreau, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King will be discussed in light of their activities as citizens in their respective political communities as well as a number of contemporary pro-democracy activists and dissidents such as Nelson Mandela (South Africa), Andrei Sakharov (Russia), Lech Walsea (Poland), Vaclav Havel (Czech Republic, the Dalai Lama (Tibet), Russian dissident Boris Nemtsov, and Burmese democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi, and Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, both recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize and Liu Xiaobo as part of a larger effort to develop a political philosophy of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy as well as answer the question: “What Does It Mean To Be a Citizen in the World Today?”

(2) A second section devoted to a philosophical examination of the nature of political obligation in a democratic society as well as a stab at an answer to the question: “when and under what circumstances, if any, is civil disobedience and civil resistance in a democracy justified?”

(3) A third section devoted to an exploration of the grounds for giving one’s allegiance to any state at all and the meaning and value of conceiving of citizenship as an activity rather than merely as a legal status, as the cultivation of a certain kind of political character and the development of civic virtues, habits of heart and mind rather than merely the possession of set of rights.
(4) A fourth section devoted to an examination of ways to strengthen democracy by fostering greater participation in politics and other forms of civic renewal and engagement against the background of the November Election including . . . Everything you wanted to know and then some about DONALD TRUMP and JOE BIDEN: the ADS, CAMPAIGNS, the DEMOCRATS and the REPUBLICANS, the ISSUES, the latest POLLS and the VOTING in 2020.

(5) A fifth and final section devoted to an examination of the future of democracy in the world today, the value and significance of seeing oneself as a global citizen rather than merely a citizen of this or that country plus an examination of the opportunities and obstacles of democratic reform in such places as Hong Kong, Pakistan, North Korea, Russia, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and China.

Topics will include extending the vote to 17 year olds in municipal elections, voter ID laws, money in politics, the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision, civic education, residency requirements, postal voting, online voting, a comparative examination of alternative voting methods, turnout, ways to increase citizen participation, the meaning and nature of representation in a democracy, health care, tax reform, affirmative action, race relations, government funding of the arts, social security, electoral reform, voter turnout and such questions as “Is the Internet Good for Democracy?” “How Much Inequality Can a Democracy Stand?” and “Are Globalization and Multiculturalism Good or Bad for Democracy?”

NOTE the first ten minutes of every class prior to Tuesday, November, the 3rd will be devoted to the U.S. Election See, for example: YouGov for the latest presidential polls: https://today.yougov.com/topics/politics/explore/topic/2020_Presidential_Election

II. Class Times
The course will meet online on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:20 PM.

III. Reading:
All books and readings will all be available online on the Course Web Site. You do not need to purchase a textbook or Course Pak for this course:

- Sophocles, ANTIGONE, Dover Thrift Edition (online)
- Plato, THE TRIAL & DEATH OF SOCRATES, Dover Thrift Edition (online)
- Thoreau, CIVIL RESISTANCE & OTHER ESSAYS, Dover Thrift Edition (online)
- Gandhi, NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE, Dover Thrift edition (also online)
- Ralph Bellamy, CITIZENSHIP: A Very Short Introduction, OUP (online)
- Robert Dahl, ON DEMOCRACY, Yale Nota Bene (online)
- Martha Nussbaum, THE LIMITS OF PATRIOTISM, Beacon Press (online)
- Charles Taylor, THE POLITICS OF RECOGNITION, Princeton (online)
- Will Kymlicka, MULTICULTURAL CITIZENSHIP, OUP (online)
Additional readings will also be available online in LATTE for everyone enrolled in the class. The course will be divided into five sections of approximately three weeks each. Assignments will be handed out for each section. A number of readings will be available in PDF online.

IV. Papers
Four short papers (one credit/no credit paper) are required on topics growing out of the conversations in class and readings. The papers should be about 5 to 6 pages in length. Topics will be available at least seven (7) days before a paper is due. You’ll have the opportunity to rewrite one, perhaps two, papers as well as the opportunity at various points in the course to get “extra credit” and improve your final grade.

V. Examinations
There will be no written examinations of any kind, final or otherwise.

VI. Attendance
You are encouraged to attend the class sessions if you are in a time zone that permits you to view and participate at a time that is convenient. If you are unable to attend, if, for example, you are asleep at the time the class meets or at work, please watch the class session as soon as possible once you are up or done with work for that day. Note: ALL CLASS SESSIONS will be live-streamed and recorded and posted within two hours of the end of every class for review and viewing later.

VII. Grading
Grading will be broken down as follows: 35% for your strongest essay, 25% for your next best effort, 20% for the least successful of the three; 10% for three Reader Response Exercises. 5% for Five Short Answer Questions (answer all five with some thought and you’ll receive an “A” for 5% of your final grade; and participation (see below) will count 5%.

VIII. Small Group Discussions
Small group discussions can be helpful. Occasional online sessions will be scheduled especially after paper topics are handed out and before a paper is due. Although attendance at the small group discussions is not required, the sessions will provide an opportunity to brainstorm about the issues.

IX. Participation
Everyone will be invited to chime in, ask a question or make a comment in class. Speaking up, if it is only to ask a question, or make a comment however, small, counts as participation. You will, however, not be required to speak up in class, you will merely be invited. You may attend the class online, look and just listen to what others have to say, and never say a word yourself. There will be other opportunities for you to participate. You may keep a journal in which you can comment on the reading or what someone said in class. You may also meet the participation requirement by attending online discussion sessions which will be optional, and by meeting remotely with your TA, or simply by talking with your family, your mother, father, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, cousins (even) and friends whether they be virtual or real or on FACEBOOK.
X. Office Hours
We — the TAs and I — shall all hold office hours by appointment. Everyone is scattered all over the globe and it is hard to find a time that is convenient for everyone. If you want to meet, just send one of us an email and see if you cannot find a time that is convenient to meet. If you wish to leave messages for me, the best method is via E-Mail (teuber@brandeis.edu)

OPENING SECTIONS

I. FIVE MODEL CITIZENS (399 BC -1968):

ANTIGONE
Sophocles, *Antigone*

SOCRATES
Plato, *Apology* and *Crito*

HENRY DAVID THOREAU
Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government”
Thoreau, “Slavery in Massachusetts”
Thoreau, "A Plea for Captain John Brown"
Emerson, “Eulogy: May 19th, 1862”

MAHATMA GANDHI
Gandhi, *Selections from his Writings*
Judith Brown: "Gandhi and Civil Resistance in India, 1917-47: Key Issues"

MARTIN LUTHER KING
King, “Letter from Birmingham City Jail”
Doug McAdam: "Civil Rights: Power from Below and Above, 1945-70"
*Eyes on The Prize* (Episode I): “The Montgomery Bus Boycott”
*Eyes on The Prize* (Episode 6): “Voting Rights”

II. MODELS OF NON-VIOLENT CIVIL RESISTANCE (POST 1968)

NELSON MANDELA (1) William Finnegan, "The Liberator" (LATTE) (2) Timothy Garton Ash, “The Curse and the Blessing of South Africa” (LATTE)

ANDREI SAKHAROV (3) Adam Michnik, “On Andrei Sakharov” (LATTE)
(4) Anne Applebaum, “The KGB File of Andrei Sakharov” (LATTE)

LECH WALESA (5) Timothy Garton Ash, “The Twins' New Poland” (Online in LATTE)

(7) Paul Wilson, “A Wonderful Life” (Online in LATTE)

DALAI LAMA (8) Jonathan Mirsky, “News from the Dalai Lama” (LATTE)
LIU XIAOBO
(11) Yu Jie, “An Interview with Liu Xiaobo” (LATTE)
(12) Simon Leys, “He Told the Truth about China’s Tyranny” (LATTE)
(13) Simon Leys, “Postscript” (LATTE)
(14) Chang Ping, "Is Democracy Chinese?” (An Interview)” (LATTE)
(15) Liu Xiaobo, "Charter 88" (LATTE)
(16) Liu Xiaobo, "Letter to Liao Yiwu" (LATTE)

AUNG SAN SUU SYI
(17) Howard French, “Looking for Hope in Burma” (LATTE)
(18) Christian Caryl, “Burmese Days” (LATTE)
(19) Profile of Aung San Suu Syi, BBC NEWS (LATTE)
(20) Aung San Suu Syi, “Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech” (LATTE)

Note: If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and you would like to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in PHIL 126A, please see me.

Washington D.C, June 5, 2020