Course Instructor:

David D. Kim, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of German
Department of Germanic Languages
320 Royce Hall
Tel (310) 825-3604
Email dkim@humnet.ucla.edu
Office hours: T 1:00PM-3:00PM or by appointment

Course Description:

Both in the humanities and in the social sciences, the concept of world citizenship has received much attention since the end of the Cold War. On the one hand, this academic discourse has to do with a decisively scholarly intervention in the hegemony of neoliberal capitalism, nationalism, and xenophobia; on the other hand, it is indicative of an ongoing disagreement over the world as a universal idea and a self-evident image of commonality. The aim of this graduate seminar is to examine how philosophers, cultural critics, literary and film scholars have interrogated cosmopolitanism against the backdrop of contemporary political crises. Students also explore the extent to which German intellectual thought serves as a contested foundation for those interdisciplinary analyses.

The seminar is divided into ten broad topics. They cover the concept of world citizenship from different disciplinary and historical perspectives, going back and forth between primary literature and secondary reading and between alternative viewpoints. Together, the weekly discussions introduce students to seminal aspects of this multifaceted concept, including the constitution of right and responsibility in modern citizenship, nationalism, hospitality, and memory. Theoretical readings include, among others, Arendt, Derrida, Heidegger, Marx, and Nussbaum. The two case studies are W.G. Sebald’s novel The Rings of Saturn and Michael Haneke’s film Code Unknown.

The course is taught in English. The readings are also in English. Graduate students in the Department of Germanic Languages are encouraged to read originally German texts in the source language.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the quarter, students will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

• have a deeper understanding of historical, political, ethical, and cultural connections between the many conceptions of world citizenship
• describe contested assumptions and navigate through scholarly debates on cosmopolitanism
• raise nuanced questions about cosmopolitanism from postcolonial perspectives in relation to German intellectual thought
• describe social problems at key moments in modern history
• analyze competing arguments
• take a critical position on primary and secondary literatures
• write a well-argued research paper

Required Texts:


Grading Rubric:

• Participation 10%
• Presentation 1 5%
• Presentation 2 5%
• Research Paper 80%
• Total 100%

Most of the grades are based on the instructor’s careful evaluation of students’ achievement of course goals. Anonymous and carefully guided peer reviews apply to the two presentations.

Presentations:

In the beginning of the quarter, students choose two assignments for in-class presentation. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, historical contextualization, a summary of main arguments, a set of questions for jumpstarting the discussion, and an instructive handout. The length of each presentation is not to exceed ten minutes. Peer reviews with specific grading rubrics apply to these assignments.

Research Paper:

In consultation with the instructor, each student writes a research paper that does not exceed 15 pages double-spaced. Before March 10, 2015, every student has to meet with the instructor at least once to discuss his or her topic. Comparative analyses are encouraged. The deadline follows the final examination schedule determined by the Registrar’s Office.

Student Code of Conduct:

To foster a community of learners, students must abide by specific regulations, which are outlined by the Dean of Students’ Office, the Office of Residential Life, the Center for Student Programming, and other Student Affairs offices. For more information, please visit http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/assets/documents/UCLA%20Student%20Conduct%20Code%209-29-14%20final.pdf.
Academic Dishonesty:

Cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, multiple submissions, and plagiarism are some of the common forms of academic dishonesty. For detailed information about academic integrity, please visit the Office of the Dean of Students website at http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/students/integrity/. The rules apply to collaboration, rough drafts, oral presentations, use of archival and online sources, and the research paper as well. If you have any questions about these matters, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor. To avoid mistakes in citing sources, visit the following UCLA Library Guide: http://guides.library.ucla.edu/citing. All submitted assignments must follow either the MLA Bibliography or the Chicago Manual of Style.

Cell Phones:

Please turn off your cell phones in the beginning of class. Any disruption of class due to the audible beeping or the use of cell phones is treated as a violation of Section 102.13 of the UCLA Student Conduct Code (http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Code_choice.php).

Schedule:

Session 1 (January 6, 2015) Nationalism or Cosmopolitanism


Session 2 (January 13, 2015) Hospitality and the Right of World Citizenship

- Immanuel Kant, Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History
- Allen W. Wood, “Kant’s Project for Perpetual Peace.” Cosmopolitics: Thinking and Feeling beyond the Nation. Edited by Pheng Cheah and Bruce Robbins (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998), 59-76. (available from the instructor)

Session 3 (January 20, 2015) Goethe’s Weltliteratur

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, West-Eastern Divan (excerpts available from the instructor)

Session 4 (January 27, 2015) Communism, Capitalism, Cosmopolitanism

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist Manifesto. (available online: https://www.gutenberg.org/files/31193/31193-h/31193-h.htm)
Session 5 (February 3, 2015) **Travel and Cosmopolitanism**
- W.G. Sebald, *The Rings of Saturn* (Chapters 1-5)

Session 6 (February 10, 2015) **Global Memory**
- W.G. Sebald, *The Rings of Saturn* (Chapters 6-10)

Session 7 (February 17, 2015) **Affect in Cosmopolitics**
- Michael Haneke, dir. *Code Unknown: Incomplete Tales of Several Journeys* (screening to be arranged)

Session 8 (February 24, 2015) **Forgiveness, Inheritance, Responsibility**
- Jacques Derrida, *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness* (Essay 1)

Session 9 (March 3, 2015) **National Citizenship, World Citizenship**
- Jacques Derrida, *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness* (Essay 2)

Session 10 (March 10, 2015) **A World of Cosmopolitanisms**
- Martin Heidegger, “The Time of World-as-Picture” (available from the instructor)
- Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, *Death of a Discipline* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), 71-102. (available from the instructor)
- Bruce Robbins, “Comparative Cosmopolitanisms.” *Cosmopolitics: Thinking and Feeling Beyond the Nation*. Edited by Pheng Cheah and Bruce Robbins (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998), 246-264. (available from the instructor)