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Intercultural Citizenship

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Course objectives

- to develop interdisciplinary knowledge and competencies of students, researchers and teachers in political sciences, civics and humanities;
- to understand the historical roots of ethnic conflicts in South-East Europe;
- to complement initial professional knowledge of participants by means of a pragmatic approach, focused on solving some concrete problems of living together in a multiethnic and multicultural society;
- to help apply “intercultural citizenship” in various cultural and political environments;
- to help participants learn how to use human rights in a variety of everyday situations;
- to foster key competencies for peaceful conflict resolution;
- to build a network of faculty and professionals in Southeast Europe which would facilitate sustainable co-operation, exchange of experience and common projects;
- to facilitate the establishment of partnership between Eastern and Western scholars.

Course level, target audience

Faculty, Ph.D. students, human rights activists, NGO representatives, researchers and teachers in social sciences, civics and humanities who have had some prior knowledge of the topics to be covered.

Syllabus

The course will comprise four major components:

- ***Defining the concept of intercultural citizenship***
 - what citizenship is (a political and legal status, a social contract, a set of competencies);
 - what intercultural citizenship is (multiculturalism and interculturalism, developing multiple identities, otherness and identity, supranational citizenship);
 - nationalism and citizenship;
 - globalism and intercultural citizenship;
- ***Citizenship in south-east Europe***
 - historical context of nationalism in the Balkans;
 - failure of federations based on juxtaposition of nationalism (the case of Yugoslavia);
 - the Stability Pact and the prospects of intercultural citizenship;
- ***How to Rebuild Social Fabric in Conflicting Regions***
 - intercultural citizenship in conflicting regions;
 - the case of Northern Ireland;
 - community-based intercultural education;
 - intercultural learning and civil society;
- ***Human Rights and Peaceful Conflict Resolution***

- international and European documents for the protection of human rights;
- how to use human rights in everyday life (case studies);
- how individuals and communities can be protected from state abuse;
- how real or potential conflicts can be solved with the aid of human rights;
- initiation in the use of intercultural learning methods (to be used in schools, NGOs, communities, daily intercultural encounters).

The detailed breakdown of the course content:

Theme 1: “From Sarajevo to Sarajevo: Old Problems and New Solutions”

(Bernd Baumgartl)

At the crossroads of empires, religions and cultures, the Balkans has always been a problematic region. After the dissolution of the last empires a medley of sovereign nations emerged whose identity became associated to contested territories. In this sense, Sarajevo at the beginning of the century and the Sarajevo in the ‘90s represent two landmarks of a century marked by intolerance, violence and ethnic conflicts. In order to break away from this historical conditioning the most diverse region of Europe must learn to peacefully manage its natural multicultural dimension. Democratic citizenship and intercultural learning are the indisputable solutions to the issue.

Number of hours: 12

The teaching format: lecture, movie screening, discussion and seminar.

Theme 2: “Intercultural Citizenship: Definition and Practical Consequences”

(Cesar Birzea)

Citizenship is a legal membership status ensured by political rights acknowledged by the State. From the cultural and psychosocial points of view, membership may refer to several human environments simultaneously: a town, a region, a nation or a super-national entity (e.g. European citizenship). This multiple citizenship encourages dialogue, interaction, shared responsibility, tolerance and ownership of the same system of values, transcending official nationality and membership of the same territory. Intercultural citizenship is a form of global citizenship that unites individuals around a common project and shared values.

Number of hours: 12

The teaching format: lecture, case studies, simulation games, discussion, seminar and workshop.

Theme 3: “How to Rebuild the Social Fabric in Conflicting Regions”

(Miroslav Kusy)

Reconciliation is not easy, especially in regions devastated by war. In this sense, rebuilding the social fabric play a major role, by regenerating community ethos, interdependency and dialogue in people’s daily life. Many of these conflicts originate from lack of proper communication and mutual understanding, based on a common social code. Concrete case studies will help students to understand how to rebuild confidence and mutual respect in conflicting regions.

Number of hours: 12

The teaching format: lecture, workshop, individual work and case studies.

Theme 4: “Human Rights and Peaceful Conflict Resolution”

(Vedrana Spajic-Vrkas)

Human rights offer an operational code for the peaceful settling of conflicts. We refer to a system that mutually restricts human rights and liberties. Each individual, group or community is allowed to act only to the extent to which the respective actions do not impose any restrictions on the rights and liberties of other individuals, groups or communities. The Universal Declaration and the European Convention on Human Rights are super-national instruments that guarantee this operational code of democratic citizenship.

Number of hours: 12

The teaching format: lecture, discussion, workshop drama and role-playing.

Non-discrimination policy statement

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