**Global Perspectives on Society - Recitation Sections**

**Fall 2018**

***Recitation Course Numbers:*** CCSF-SHU 101L-031 and -032

***Recitation Room:*** Rm 524

***Recitation Time:*** Wednesdays 031, 9:45-11; 032, 1:15-2:30

***Instructor:*** Dr.Quinn Hiroshi Gibson

***Instructor’s E-mail:*** qhgibson@nyu.edu

***Office Number:*** 962-2

***Office Hours:*** Mondays 11:15-12:15, Wednesdays 12:15-1:15, and by appointment

### *Preamble:*

The course description, policies, assignment descriptions, and schedule of readings can be found in the main syllabus for the course, and you should review them carefully. The purpose of this mini-syllabus is to establish a shared set of goals and expectations for our weekly recitation sections.

***Learning Goals for GPS Recitation Sections:***

* Through weekly discussions, you will develop your ability to communicate your understandings of the texts in dialogue with others.
* You will develop your ability to take seriously your peers’ arguments, ideas, and viewpoints, even when they conflict with your own, by listening carefully to them.
* You will develop your ability to connect abstract concepts with the practical social and political realities we face in contemporary societies.
* You will learn both to develop and to challenge your own assumptions and opinions about social, political, and philosophical topics by questioning them and defending them with analytical rigor.
* You will practice the skill of asking thought-provoking questions that can spur analytical discussion of the course material.

***Weekly Discussion Questions:***

Because I believe that asking thoughtful questions is an important skill that you can take with you into any field of study or work, I require that you write *two discussion questions per week*, based on your reading of the course texts and your understanding of the lectures. These questions must be posted on the Forums sections of the NYU Classes page for combined recitation sections by***4pm on each Tuesday before the weekly meeting of the recitation section***. I will use these questions to informally assess how well the class understands the main ideas of the reading and where the students’ major areas of interest are, and will shape our class time accordingly.

Avoid questions that are merely factual in nature; if you can find the answer to your question with a quick Google or Baidu search, it’s not a good discussion question! Instead, try to formulate questions that could generate an interesting class discussion, because this is what the questions will be used for. Some examples of good types of questions are as follows:

* Clarification of concepts: “I don’t understand what the author is doing with concept X. Is s/he saying that …?”
* Extension of concepts: “It seems that the author’s view doesn’t account for situations in which such-and-such is the case. Perhaps if it were revised in such-and-such a way it would fare better…”
* Comparison of authors: “What would author A say to author B about B’s idea such-and-such?”
* Application of concepts: “How well does this idea explain real-world situation ABC?”

Discussion questions will be evaluated on a credit/no-credit basis. This means that if you make a good-faith effort to pose a useful discussion question and submit it on time, you will receive full credit for the question.

Because the discussion questions will be used to prepare for the recitation sections in advance, ***late discussion questions will not be accepted***.

The discussion questions, along with your participation in recitation sections and in lectures, will be the basis for 25% of your final grade in the course.

***Recitation Section Guidelines and Rules:***

* Just like the lectures, the recitation sections are crucial for helping you develop your understanding of the course material. You are expected to attend all recitation sections. Unexcused absences will lower your participation grade, as outlined in the main syllabus. Excused absences will be granted at my discretion and only for very good reasons (such as serious illness or travel to attend a university-sponsored event.) Being busy with assignments for other classes is not a good enough reason to warrant an excused absence. We are all busy people.
* Disruptive or distracting behavior (which includes falling asleep!) will be counted as an unexcused absence for the day.
* Please be punctual to avoid disturbing your classmates (and me!)
* I expect that each of you will participate verbally in our discussions during every meeting of the recitation section. However, quantity of comments and questions should not be mistaken for quality! I would prefer for you to make just a few substantive, insightful remarks or ask a couple of thought-provoking questions per session than for you to make lots of comments that don’t move the conversation forward.
* We are here to talk with, listen to, and learn from each other. At times our discussions will likely touch on sensitive and controversial topics. I expect that each of you will demonstrate respect for your classmates, both in what you say and in how you listen to each other.
* In order to maximize effective communication, please be willing to repeat yourself patiently if there is a misunderstanding, and always ask for clarification if there is a point you have not fully understood.
* Do not use electronic devices (laptops, phones, tablets) during sections without a prior, academically-based exception. If you have an academically-based exception from the Office of Academic Affairs, please notify me and we can work out an accommodation.
* Bring your course pack to every recitation section.
* You should read the weekly assigned texts before Monday and Tuesday’s lectures in order to maximize comprehension. You are required to read the texts before submitting your weekly discussion questions on NYU Classes.
* As mentioned above, your discussion questions must be submitted weekly by 4pm on Wednesday. Late discussion questions will not be accepted.

***Written Assignments:***

* Written assignments must be submitted on the NYU Classes page for your recitation section (not the NYU Classes page for the main course!)
* Your assignment must be formatted as follows:

- Use Times New Roman 12-pt font.

- Double-space and use 1” margins all the way around.

- Your name, my name, the date, and the course number for your recitation section (either CCSF-SHU 101L-017 or -023) must be included at the top of the first page.

- Files must be saved as .doc, .docx, or .pdf. ***No other file extensions will be accepted***.

- Files should be titled according to the following convention:

Lastname – Firstname – Assignment *n* – 031 (or 032)

* All written assignments will be checked for plagiarism using a software program called TurnItIn, which will compare your submission to a database that includes a vast quantity of published and unpublished material. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and will be regarded as a serious offense. If you have any questions about how to avoid plagiarism or other academic integrity offenses, please do not hesitate to ask me. The ARC staff are also trained and ready to help you.

***A Final Word:***

This course is designed to be challenging. Therefore, if you are feeling challenged, that means that the course is working! As with all courses in a liberal arts education, the amount of benefit you derive from the course will be directly proportional to the amount of effort you invest. I hope that you will make the most of your opportunity to refine your skills in thinking, speaking, and writing over the course of the semester. I look forward to learning with all of you.