Global Civil Society

Winter 2014
Instructor: Motohide Saji
msaji@iuj.ac.jp

Course Description

This course introduces students to the contested idea of global civil society (GCS) and examines related issues. Among topics to be discussed are: GCS and NGOs, nationalism, gender, democracy, and citizenship.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance to all sessions is required. Attendance is not a part of grading criteria. Absence is a minus, that is, disadvantageous, in terms of grading unless you have serious reasons such as family emergency, documented medical emergency, and religious reasons. You should let the instructor know the reason for your absence.

Summary writing and active participation (worth 10%)

In the first 10-15 minutes at the beginning of class each week (except Weeks 1 and 10), you are required to write a short summary of the reading material of that week (the material should be closed when you are writing). Please bring a pencil and a sheet of paper with you. You are also required to participate actively in class discussion. In class I may randomly choose one or more students to pose discussion questions about the reading material.

In-class presentation (worth 20%):

Each week in the second session a student (or two, depending on how many students take this course) will give an about 30 minute in-class presentation. Discuss critically one of the following three: 1) civil society related issues (including, but not limited to, topics in class such as globalization and gender) in your country; 2) civil society related issues you are familiar with (e.g., if you have work experience in an NGO in different country); or 3) theoretical issues in the reading of the week when you are assigned a presentation. So that we can learn practical problems in different countries (1 and 2) or can have insightful discussion on the class reading (3). “Discuss critically” means: if you choose 1) or 2), you should not end up just describing civil society related issues and you should find problems and think about how to deal with them; if you choose 3), you should not summarize the reading but examine its argument, find problems and/or provide objections to it, and offer your view on these problems/objections.
You can use PowerPoint. I would encourage you to e-mail all of us an outline of your presentation by the morning of the Thursday when you give a presentation, so that we come to your presentation having read its outline.

Term paper (70%):
One 3000-word term paper on a topic of your choice, as long as your topic is about any aspect of global civil society, and as long as you refer to at least one reading of the class readings. Due at noon Tuesday March 18. You can, although you do not have to, consult me about your paper topic(s).

The front page and bibliography are not included in word count. Please turn in your paper in electronic copy (Word e-mail attachment) to my email address (msaji@iuj.ac.jp). Plagiarism will be dealt with most harshly.

You should make an argument in your paper. An argument is an attempt to convince someone of something. To make an argument, you state your claim, provide supporting evidence for your claim, explain how your evidence supports your claim, and give reasons for accepting your conclusion. Do not end up with a description or a summary, that is, do not end up in describing situations or summarizing some authors’ arguments.

Your term paper will be evaluated in terms of accuracy, clarity, and logic. It does not matter whether your view/conclusion is the same as or different from mine.

Accuracy: whether you correctly understand the arguments, concepts, etc. of the reading assignments.

Clarity: whether you present your argument in a clear and lucid way.

Logic: whether your claim, evidence, and conclusion are connected in your argument.

Late work will be penalized half of a grade (from an A to an A-, from a B+ to a B, etc.) each day after the deadline.

Readings (some are not required readings but on reserve in the library)


**Course Outline**

Please access “my folder” articles in my folder (My IUJ, IR materials, Saji folder, Global Civil Society 2013 folder, week number folder). Some week folders contain readings that are not listed below and thus are non-required readings. You can read them if interested. I will hand out other readings in class a week in advance.

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Globalization
Week 3: Global civil society

Week 4: Global civil society and NGOs

Week 5: Global civil society and multinational corporations

Week 6: Global civil society and some issues 1
*Global Civil Society, 2005/6*, Introduction (on the world risk society) and Chap. 1 (gender and civil society).

Week 7: Global society and some issues 2
*Global Civil Society 2003*, Chap. 7 (on religious and nationalist militant groups) (my folder); *Global Civil Society 2005/6*, Chap. 4 (on migration).

Week 8: Global civil society and democracy

Week 9: Global civil society and citizenship

Week 10: Concluding session