Global Citizenship

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

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As the world becomes increasingly interdependent in commerce, technology, and popular culture, people of different cultures must reconcile diametrically opposed views of fairness, equity, and conduct. Religious extremism, trade policies, human rights abuses, and gender inequity are but a few examples of controversies born out of belief systems colliding on the global stage. How will individuals from different national, religious, and cultural traditions understand their personal responsibilities in a world increasingly strained by resurfacing nationalism and the pressures of globalization?

The Global Citizenship Program prepares students for engaged living in a culturally diverse and rapidly changing world. Emphasizing critical analysis and value reflection, the program structures educational experiences through which students learn to negotiate international boundaries and develop their own sense of personal, social, and corporate responsibility to the global community. The program is designed to be flexible so that undergraduate students in any college may participate. Students bring perspectives of their own disciplines to the fore as the group explores questions of what it means to be a global citizen as an engineer, or a businessperson, or an artist or a social or natural scientist. To participate, interested students should enroll in GCP 010 - which is a pre-requisite for application to the program - during the Spring term of their first year at Lehigh.

Professor Of Practice. Mark Orrs, PhD (Columbia University)

Certificate in Global Citizenship

Core Courses

GCP 010 Introduction to Global Citizenship 3
GCP 185 Cosmopolitanism and Culture I 2
GCP 186 Cosmopolitanism and Culture II 2
GCP 285 The Citizen and the City 2
GCP 385 Global Citizenship Capstone Course 4

Electives

Two electives approved by the program director/adviser and each at a minimum of 3 credits.

International Experience

12-14 day faculty-led intersession trip abroad

Additional international experience at least 4 weeks in length and approved by the program director/adviser

Total Credits 19

1 Fall Semester
2 Spring Semester
3 Students may register for 2 to 4 credits of GCP 385 Capstone Course per semester for a maximum of 2 semesters and a total maximum of 4 credits.
4 Most intersession trips will occur during winter term. Occasionally, the trip may be scheduled for spring or summer.

Courses

GCP 010 Introduction to Global Citizenship 3 Credits

An interdisciplinary approach introduces the contested notion of global citizenship. Readings explore the meaning of citizenship in the global era; the viability of nationalism and cosmopolitanism; the efficacy of social change initiatives in transnational context; the impact of economic globalization on vulnerable populations; the role of the United Nations; the discourse of human rights; and the relation between global and local justice. Addressing topics of urgent concern, students' assignments consider global citizenship practice in relation to their area of study.

Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

GCP 185 Cosmopolitanism and Culture I 2 Credits

This multidisciplinary practicum approaches the themes and questions of global citizenship through the lens of a particular region. Participants explore that area’s geography, history, politics, economy, and culture in anticipation of travel. Special attention is given to cultural expectations and relevant social issues, especially in light of their global consequence. Classroom discussion and assignments prompt students to reflect on the ethical issues surrounding travel, service, and study abroad.

Prerequisites: GCP 010

Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

GCP 186 Cosmopolitanism and Culture II 2 Credits

This post-trip seminar analyzes the cohort’s experiences abroad and articulates their implication for global citizenship practice. While examining philosophical, religious, and artistic traditions associated with the intersession trip destination, students revisit their travel, think critically about their personal interaction with foreign places and people, and make informed decisions regarding their future practice as citizens. Classroom discussion emphasizes responsible cross-cultural engagement and critical reflection, with attention paid to the traditions of cosmopolitan thinking and action native to the region of travel.

Prerequisites: GCP 010 and GCP 185

Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

GCP 285 The Citizen and the City 2 Credits

With a focus on Bethlehem’s South Side, this community-engaged practicum provides participants with a theoretical framework and practical skills for efficacious civic action. Course readings address local citizenship, urbanization, the built environment, diversity, and inclusion; assignments ask students to make connections, in theory and practice, to Bethlehem’s history and people. In cooperation with the Center for Community Engagement, all participants will complete 10-15 hours of engaged learning in the Lehigh Valley.

Prerequisites: GCP 010 and GCP 185 and GCP 186

GCP 385 Global Citizenship Capstone Course 2-4 Credits

This year-long, project-based seminar assesses globalization and social change through the lens of cosmopolitanism. Readings examine issues of power, privilege, and aid, especially as they affect the local community. Special attention is paid to the difference between sympathetic feeling and political action. Assignments encourage critical reflection on the Global Citizenship Program and ask students to articulate a personal definition of global citizenship. In teams, students propose and execute a capstone project that puts their understanding of global citizenship into practice.

Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

Prerequisites: GCP 010 or GCP 185 or GCP 186 or GCP 285

Can be taken Concurrently: GCP 285