CITIZENSHIP AND ACTIVISM
Spring 2007 WRTG 3020
Natasha Radojcic
Office Hours: ENVD 1B27 M-W 1:30-3pm
Email: natasha.radojcic@colorado.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS:
(All paperback; available at the CU Bookstore, unless otherwise noted; you must purchase the specific editions listed here):

1. Stowe, Harriet Beecher. Uncle Tom's Cabin (Bantam Classic)
4. Orwell, George. Homage to Catalonia (Harvest Books)
5. Gourevitch, Philip. We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow we will be killed with our families. (Picador USA)

FILMS:

1. Amistad (1997)
2. Wag the Dog (1997)
3. Great Dictator (1939)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Citizenship and Activism is an intensive writing course with the primary focus on issues that are central to American society, such as cultural identity, morality, religious tolerance, and modern warfare. Taking as a point of departure the U.S. Constitution and Henry David Thoreau’s Civil Disobedience, we will study works of non-fiction as well as fiction as vehicles for social change. This course will generate a greater awareness of our surroundings and equip you with tools of critical thinking, research strategies, and the ability to adequately support and assert an argument. While accomplishing these course goals, we will also explore our role as agents of change and as American citizens as well as the citizens of the world. Using films such as Amistad and Hotel Rwanda, excerpts from Toni Morrison’s Beloved, George Orwell’s Homage to Catalonia, Philip Gourevitch’s We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow we will be killed with our families and Michael Cook’s The Koran: A very short introduction, we will closely examine the "changing and increasingly more crucial role of the citizen in the democratic process and in the crucial task of revitalizing our communities." Out of this vast discussion, you will research and write about specific topics that interest you. You are required to complete frequent essay assignments and quizzes, as well as to participate in class discussions, and complete library research assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

• PAPERS (occasional short and one long final paper.)
• Two in-class exams (the midterm and the final)
• Group presentation
• Guest Speaker (to be announced)
• Participation in class discussion (NOT OPTIONAL). Class participation will count for your final grade.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Your papers must be typed, double-spaced, and closely proofread as all spelling and grammatical errors will affect your grade. Always hand in TWO clean, identical copies of your papers, which should be titled and have a heading with your name, my name, and the date. Papers MUST be handed in on time. No late papers will be accepted for a grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade for the course by one letter grade. More than three absences will result in a failing grade regardless of work completed. If you are over ten minutes late three times you will earn yourself one absence. In some cases, absences MAY be excused for religious holidays, illness (requiring a doctor’s note), or serious personal reasons (in most cases, requiring a note from the dean). If possible, let me know before class if you will be absent.

GRADING:

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paper One</td>
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<td>Paper Two</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is the act, whether deliberate or unintentional, of passing another author’s work as your own. Plagiarizing all or part of a paper will result in an automatic failure for that paper and possibly failure for the course. I may also choose to report a plagiarism case to the Honors Council. You are responsible for reading and complying with the CU Honor Code:

www.colorado.edu.academics/honorcode

DISABILITIES:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability please submit in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. For more info:

www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices
CITIZENSHIP AND ACTIVISM
WRTG 3020
Unit One: The Historical Perspective

M 1/22
Introduction.
Discussion: U.S. Constitution.

W 1/24
Read Henry David Thoreau Civil Disobedience.
Turn in a short essay (350 words) answering the question: What does it mean to be an American citizen today?

M 1/29
Read Emancipation Declaration.
Read the first half of Uncle Tom's Cabin.
Choose a passage you found particularly interesting. Turn in a list of absolutely everything you noticed about the passage you chose. You should have at least eight things on your list.

W 1/31
Finish reading Uncle Tom's Cabin.
Turn in a short essay (350 words) connecting the 8 things on your list. Bring FIVE copies of your assignment to class.
Group Assignment will be distributed.
Quiz #1 (3 short answer questions)

M 2/5
Screening Amistad.
Peer Review: Writing Workshop.

W 2/7
Amistad, continued.
Turn in rough draft (400-500 words) of Paper One: How do I interpret the American Dream today? Bring FIVE copies with you.
(Start reading Toni Morrison's Beloved this week!)

M 2/12
Peer Review: Writing Workshop.

W 2/14
Read Toni Morrison's Beloved.
Pick a chapter to analyze in class that you found particularly striking.
Quiz #2 (5 short answer questions)

Unit Two: The "Americans"

M 2/19
Audio Presentation: Mohawks and High Steel.
Class Discussion of handout The Trail Of Tears. Come ready to argue!
**Turn in** the second draft of Paper One.

W 2/21
Read Mario Puzo’s *Choosing a Dream*.
Choose a paragraph or a passage in *Choosing a Dream* where you think issues of national identity are particularly addressed. **Turn in** a few paragraphs about yourself. List something about your family history. Answer the following question: How does your background inform your actions as a citizen?

M 2/26
Read Jade Snow Wong’s *Puritans from the Orient*.
Class discussion on contemporary citizenship.

W 2/28
Midterm Exam.

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**Unit Three: Modern Warfare**

M 3/5
Read Albert Einstein’s and Sigmund Freud’s correspondence *Why War?*
Pick a specific statement that is relevant to the current political issues. **Turn in** a rough draft of Paper Two (650 words), supporting your argument. Bring **FIVE** copies to class.

W 3/7
Read W.H. Auden’s “September 1, 1939.”
Peer Review: Writing Workshop.

M 3/12
Read the first chapter of George Orwell’s *Hommage to Catalonia*.
**Turn in** the second draft of Paper Two (850 words). Bring **FIVE** copies to class. (Start reading *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow we will be killed With Our Families*)
W 3/14
Peer Review: Writing Workshop.

M 3/19
Read Philip Gourcwich’s *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow we will be killed With Our Families*.
**Turn in** an analytical response to the text (450 words).

W 3/21
Group Presentation.

M 3/26 Spring Break - NO CLASS

W 3/28 Spring Break - NO CLASS

M 4/2
Read the first excerpt from Richard Bulliet’s *Islam the View From the Edge* (available on e-reserve)

**Turn in** a rhetorical analysis essay (450 words).

W 4/4

Read the second excerpt from Richard Bulliet’s *Islam the View From the Edge* (available on e-reserve)

M 4/9

Read Michael Cook’s *The Koran: A very short introduction*.

**Turn in** several paragraphs listing similarities with Christianity as well as differences.

**Turn in** thesis statement for Final Paper (250-300 words).

You may choose any topic for the final paper, as long as it is based on the Unit Three reading. The thesis statement (including title) must be approved. This is a research paper. You will be assessed on the quality of your research and engagement of secondary sources. You must cite at least three works not used in class.

W 4/11

Screening *Hotel Rwanda*.

M 4/16

*Hotel Rwanda*, continued.

**Turn in** the first draft of your Final Paper (1000 words). Bring **FIVE** copies to class.

W 4/18

Peer Review: Writing Workshop.

M 4/23

Screening *Wag the Dog*.

**Turn in** the second draft of your Final Paper.

W 4/25

Peer Review: Writing Workshop.

M 4/30

Review of Semester. Bring **all your** notes to class.

W 5/2

Final exam.

**Turn in** Final Paper (1500 words).