
COURSE TASKS

GENERAL REQUIREMENT: Participation in *most of the lectures/discussions*.

TASK 1 (individually): *general learning journal*

- The student writes a *general learning journal* based on the lectures/discussions; the journal *reflects the student's own insights, observations, critical thoughts, interesting new ideas* etc., received during the session (it is important to write these down during the sessions and refer to them in the journal).
- The learning journal has no particular or fixed format: it consists of the student's understanding and thoughts and interpretations about the course; two criteria, however, are essential: the journal should show (1) that *the substance of the course has been understood*, and (2) that *the substance has been processed and critically reflected upon* — both are equally important; if something about the contents of the sessions remained unclear, *it is important to contact the course coordinator* who will, gladly, explain the matters in more detail.
- In the end of the learning journal there should be a *feedback section* in which *the student expresses his/her sentiments about the whole course*: What, in the end, was the personal 'gain' from the course? What kind of a learning experience was the course? etc.

TASK 2 (as pair or group work): *analytical essay*

- Students write (in pairs or groups) an *analytic essay* on one or a couple of the themes discussed during the course; the essay *elaborates on the profundities and practical consequences of the chosen theme*, based on both the sessions and the course literature/materials (it is important to actually study these materials and refer to them in the essay).
- The essay has a structure, but not fixed format: it consists of simple and clear sections separated by descriptive titles chosen by students; here too, the two criteria are essential: the essay should show (1) that *the substance of the course has been understood*, and (2) that *the substance has been processed and critically reflected upon* — both are equally important; although the books and course materials provided to facilitate critical and speculative thought, *it is important that they are studied and referred to* in the contents of the essay.
- The overall length of the essay could be about 14-18 pages (or 7'000-9'000 words); however, *the primary concern is on the substance, not the length, of the essay* (a shorter essay with profound substance is preferable to a long essay with superficial substance but, of course, a short essay is not automatically better than a lengthy one).
- Students should *use the questions/themes below to provoke contemplation and induce reflection*; they are not, however, meant to be used *as such*, but only as points of departure or 'food for thought' *to help students find their particular theme(s) of interest*.
 - » Question/theme 1: Reflect on *evolution* and *history* and on globalization as a *profound transition in human perception, identity and ethics*: How can human history, despite ongoing conflicts and wars, be seen as a *process of learning* to cooperate in ever larger societal groups — towards a sustainable and inclusive society, ultimately towards a *global society with the Earth as its homeland*?
 - » Question/theme 2: How could globalization be both *sustainable* and *inclusive*; what effect can human choices — both collective and individual — have on the outcome of globalization for those two criteria to be realized; how can we ensure a *proactive* evolutionary path instead of a *reactive* one?
 - » Question/theme 3: What are some qualities of humanness and citizenship that could be considered universal, despite the vast diversity of human culture, mentality and experience; what kind of "unity in diversity" can be found in human life?
 - » Question/theme 4: Reflect on the nature of human identity: If the feeling of a sense of belonging to family or clan does not conflict with e.g. national or ethnic identity, how can allegiance and loyalty to the entire humanity (or world citizenship) be reconciled with other 'layers' of human identity?
 - » Question/theme 5: How can *traditional cultural or ethnic allegiances* be expanded so that they would be inclusive of broader loyalties, such as loyalty to neighbouring peoples or loyalty to humankind as a whole; how can this be done without mitigating existing loyalties, yet reaching beyond them?