



**Beyond the Classroom Living and Learning Program
Spring 2014**

**UNIV 389L: Beyond the Classroom Seminar III:
Civic Leadership for Community Engagement**

**Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD (3 credits)
Section 0101; 1102 South Campus Commons, Building 1**

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Web: <http://www.BeyondtheClassroom.umd.edu>

Prerequisites: *UNIV 325 and UNIV 326; for advanced students in the Beyond the Classroom (BTC) Living and Learning Program.*

Course Overview

This multi-disciplinary seminar enables students to develop their leadership skills by working collaboratively with their peers on joint projects to enhance and to deepen civic engagement and constructive social change on key civic issues on campus and in the broader community on local, national and global issues. Student will carry out collaborative community-based research that addresses an important civic issue and advances civic knowledge for solving that issue. Students will write a research paper (BTC monograph) and contribute to a joint professional report. The seminar will culminate in a BTC civic education or showcase event (e.g., public forum, conference, hearing, video presentation, etc.) where students will share their findings with the broader campus and members of the relevant community.

Inspiration and Challenge

“Let us reflect on what is truly of value in life, what gives meaning to our lives, and set our priorities on the basis of that inspiration.” – The 14th Dalai Lama

“Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.” – Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1959.

“We must have the courage to face whatever is present. If not here, where else could we bring alive compassion, justice and liberation?” – Jack Kornfield

*“To understand your country you must love it. To love it you must, in a sense, accept it. To accept it as it is, however, is to betray it. To accept your country without betraying it, you must love it for that in it which shows what it might become. America – this monument to the genius of ordinary men and women, this place where hope becomes capacity, this long, halting turn of the no into the yes – needs citizens who love it enough to re-imagine and remake it.” – Roberto Mangabeira Unger and Cornel West, (1998), *The Future of American Progressivism*, p. 93.*

*“Only a visionary leadership can motivate ‘the better angels of our nature’ as Lincoln said, and activate possibilities for a freer, more efficient, and stable America – only that leadership deserves cultivation and support. This new leadership must be grounded in grassroots-organizing that highlight democratic accountability. Whoever **our** leaders will be as we approach the twenty-first century, their challenge will be to help Americans determine whether a genuine multiracial democracy can be created and sustained in an era of global economy and a moment of xenophobic frenzy.” – Cornel West, (1993), *Race Matters*, pp. 7-8.*

Course Expectations

Students are expected to participate actively in framing and shaping discussion and to reflect critically on the key concepts and ideas presented in the readings and discussion. Students are encouraged draw on both their own academic and experiential insights to understand the main dimensions affecting the possibilities for transforming leadership for effective community engagement on civic issues. Some seminar time will be devoted to collaborative group project meetings to define priorities, clarify roles and responsibilities, and delegate tasks for joint civic projects

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will fulfill the following learning outcomes and will be able to:

1. Engage in knowledge building, problem-solving and critical thinking about vital civic and policy issues from the local to the national and global levels;
2. Understand and apply the concept of civic engagement and strategies for enhancing civic engagement and advancing constructive social change by undertaking participatory action research that addresses a civic issue in a specific community context;
3. Develop their leadership capacities and skills for fostering civil discourse and effective professional practices for public education, research, and advocacy in the nonprofit and civil society sector;
Identify the key civic values, attitudes and expectations that motivate them personally as well as others to engage in civic action and leadership; and
4. Engage in effective communication (i.e., writing, class discussion, and presentations) and outreach to key stakeholders to increase public awareness about key civic issues and to promote constructive solutions.

Assessment and Grading:

Assessment of student performance will be based on the following course requirements.

Item	Course Requirement	Format	Weighting (percent)	Relevant Learning Outcomes	Due Date
1.	Active Leadership Role in Seminar Participation	+ Commentary on the readings + Active in-class discussion	20 percent	1-5	Weeks 2-10, on ELMS by 12:00 noon on day of class
2.	Leadership & Professional Skills Assessment	• Leadership Exercises	10 percent	1-5	TBA
3.	Civic Research & Action Project, Research Design and Literature Review	• 2 Project Ideas • Issue Brief • Research Strategy • Action Plan	30 percent	1-5	• February 12 • February 26 • March 12 • April 2
4.	Civic Research & Action Project Paper (Team)	• Draft • Final Version	20 percent	1-5	• April 16 • May 13
5.	Civic Research & Action Project Presentation (Team)	• Draft • Civic Leadership Forum	20 percent	1-5	• April 30 • May 2

Course Requirements:

Students will conduct, either alone or as part of a small group, a community-based research and action project using the model of community-based participatory research. Students are expected to engage in systematic inquiry, identifying and applying relevant

methodological approaches that are most appropriate to addressing the civic issue under study. Students are encouraged to identify key community stakeholders and to make use of their own contacts and resources to define appropriate civic projects.

Course articles and materials will be distributed in class and also be made available either on-line, or through the course web site on ELMS.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY INFORMATION

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

Religious Observances

The University of Maryland policy states that students should not be penalized in any way for participating in religious observances. Students will be allowed, whenever practical, to make up assignments or course activities missed in these cases. Also per University policy, all arrangements for such absences must be made within the **first two weeks of the course**.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather that leads to the official closing of the campus, please check your email and Blackboard for updates on the course requirements and any changes to the course syllabus. Check <http://www.umd.edu/emergencypreparedness> for updates on the university's status.

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities should contact the instructor within **by the end of the schedule readjustment period** to make sure they receive accommodations. For information about services offered to students with disabilities, refer to the Counseling Center website at www.counseling.umd.edu.

Course Evaluation

You are highly encouraged to participate in the campus-wide online course evaluation system, CourseEvalUM, in order to provide you valuable feedback about this course. Go to the web site: <http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu> to complete your evaluation.

Course Schedule

Week 1, February 5, 2014: Overview of the Seminar: Leadership for a Civically Engaged Semester for Research and Action

Course Overview

Discuss ideas for potential civic research and action projects

Week 2, February 12, 2014: Embracing the Inspiration and Challenge of Envisioning a Better World

Assignment Due: *Propose two ideas for possible civic research and action projects*

Required Readings:

- William Sites, Robert J. Chaskin, and Virginia Parks. (2007). Reframing Community Practice for the 21st Century: Multiple Traditions, Multiple Challenges.” *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 29(5): 519-541.
- Thomas Ehrlich. (2002). Educating Citizens in a Pluralistic Society. Pp. 1-22.

Other Resources:

- Lee Benson, Ira Harkavy, and John Puckett. (2007). *Dewey's Dream: Universities and Democracies in an Age of Education Reform – Civil Society, Public Schools, and Democratic Citizenship*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, Read: Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5-7.
- Michael Jacoby Brown. (2006). *Building Powerful Community Organizations: A Personal Guide to Creating Groups that Can Solve Problems and Change the World*. Arlington, MA: Long Haul Press.
- Penny A. Pasque. Lori A. Hendricks, and Nicholas a. Bowman. Eds. (2006). *Taking Responsibility: A Call for Higher Education's Engagement in a Society of Complex Global Challenges*. National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good, August.
- Andrew Mott. (2004). *University Education for Community Change: a Vital Strategy for Progress on Poverty, Race and Community-Building*. Community Learning Project, Washington, D.C.
- Paul Hawken. (2007). *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Social Movement in History Is Restoring Grace, Justice, and Beauty to the World*. New York: Penguin Books.
- James Gustave Speth. (2008). *The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Saul D. Alinsky. (1971). *Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Edward T. Chambers. (2003). *Roots for Radicals: Organizing for Power, Action, and Justice*. New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.
- Stephen Hart. (2001). *Cultural Dilemmas of Progressive Politics: Styles of Engagement among Grassroots Activists*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Richard A. Couto. (1999). *Making Democracy Work Better: Mediating Structures, Social Capital, and the Democratic Prospect*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.
- Ken Thomson. (2001). *From Neighborhood to Nation: The Democratic Foundations of Civil Society*. Hanover, NH: Tufts University Press.

Week 3, February 19, 2014: The Responsibility of Transformative Leadership: Seeing Possibilities, and Changing Expectations

Readings:

- Frances Westley, Brenda Zimmerman, and Michael Quinn Patton. (2007). *Getting to Maybe: How the World Is Changed*. Toronto: Vintage Canada. Read: Chapter 1.
- Sarah Burd-Sharps, Kristen Lewis, and Eduardo Borges Martins. (2008). *The Measure of America: American Human Development Report, 2008-2009*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 1-7.
- Mary-Ellen Boyle and Ira Silver. (2005). Poverty, Partnerships, and Privilege: Elite Institutions and Community Empowerment.” *City and Community*, 4(3): 233-253.
- Council of Europe. (2006). Declaration on “Higher Education and Democratic Culture: Citizenship, Human Rights and Civic Responsibility.” Strasbourg. 22-23 June 2006, 3 pp.

Other Resources:

- Warren Bennis, Daniel Goleman, James O’Toole with Patricia Ward Biederman. (2008). *Transparency: How Leaders Create a Culture of Candor*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass. Read: Chapters 1-3.
- Joseph S. Nye, Jr. (2008). *The Powers to Lead*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Aqeel Tirmizi, Jeff Unsicker, Maliha Khan, Marla Solomon, and Ken Williams. (n.d.). *Leadership for Social Justice: Capacity-building Resource Manual*. Brattleboro, VT: School for International Training, World Learning.

Week 4, February 26, 2014: Understanding the Context: Diagnosing and Defining the Problem and Identifying Pathways for Constructive Social Change

Assignment Due: Prepare an Issue Brief for your Civic Research & Action Project

Readings:

- Peter Block. (2008). *Community: The Structure of Belonging*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Chapter 1: “Insights into Transformation,” pp. 11-28.
- Robert J. Chasin. (2005). “Democracy and Bureaucracy in a Community Planning Process.” *Journal of Planning and Research*, 24(4): 408-419.
- Sarah Burd-Sharps, Kristen Lewis, and Eduardo Borges Martins. (2008). *The Measure of America: American Human Development Report, 2008-2009*. New York: Columbia University Press, Part 3: “A Decent Standard of Living;” pp. 120-149, and Charts on Congressional Districts.

Week 5, March 5, 2014: Assessing Where and How to Make Difference: Criteria for Optimizing Impact

Video: Peter Bloch on Community: The Structure of Belonging:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwahGcEiAr0> view episodes 1-3

Readings:

- Frances Westley, Brenda Zimmerman, and Michael Quinn Patton. (2007). *Getting to Maybe: How the World Is Changed*. Toronto: Vintage Canada. Read: Chapter 2 “Getting to Maybe,” pp. 29-53.
- Michael Patton. (2007). “Developmental Evaluation.” In: *Getting to Maybe: How the World Is Changed*, Toronto: Vintage Canada.
- Peter Block. (2008). *Community: The Structure of Belonging*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Chapter 2: “Shifting the Context for Community,” pp. 29-36; and Chapter 7: “The Transforming Community,” pp. 73-81.

Week 6, March 12, 2014: Participatory Action Research for Civic Action**Assignment Due: A Research Strategy for your Civic Research & Action Project**

Readings: Paul Castelleo, Thomas Watson, and Craig White. (2002). “Participatory Change: An Innovative Approach to Community Practice.” *Journal of Community Practice*, 10(4): 7-32.

NO CLASS –March 19, 2014: SPRING BREAK**Week 7, March 26, 2014: The Millennial Generation: Transformative Leadership for the 21st Century?****Readings:**

- Rick James. (2003). *Leaders Changing Inside-Out: What Causes Leaders to Change Behaviour? Cases from Malawian Civil Society*. Oxford, UK: International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC), Occasional Paper Series No. 43, 51 pp.
- Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families (2003). Special Issue on Innovative Youth Engagement Strategies. *Insight*, Vol. 5(1), Fall, 16 pp., at: www.gcyf.org

Other Resources:

- Michael Connery. (2008). *Youth to Power: How Today’s Young Voters Are Building Tomorrow’s Progressive Majority*. Brooklyn, NY: Ig Publishing

Week 8, April 2, 2014: Strategizing Civic Action: Identifying Key Stakeholders and Developing Action Plans**Assignment Due: An Action Plan for your Civic Research & Action Project**

Readings: James V. Riker and Kathryn E. Nelson (2003). *What Works to Strengthen Civic Engagement in America: Local Action and Civic Innovation*. The Democracy Collaborative, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

Week 9, April 9, 2014: Collaborative Governance: Linking Theory and Practice

Readings: Chris Ansell and Alison Gash. (2007). “Collaborative Governance in Theory and Practice.” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, pp. 543-563, November.

Thomas A. Bryer. (2010). “Linking Students with Community through Collaborative Governance: A Report on a Service-Learning Course.” *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, 17(1): 89 -114, at: http://www.naspaa.org/jpaemessenger/Article/VOL17-1/08_17n01_Bryer.pdf

Week 10, April 16, 2014: Developing Effective Communication and Outreach Strategies

Assignment Due: *Draft Civic Research & Action Project Paper*

Readings: David Cohen, Rosa de la Vega, and Gabrielle Watson. (2001). *Advocacy for Social Justice: A Global Action and Reflection Guide*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, Chapter 5: “Strategy Development,” pp. 59-87.

Week 11, April 23, 2014: Crafting a Common Plan of Action: Developing Key Findings and Recommendations

Readings: Beyond the Classroom (2008). *A Report Card on Health Care Coverage and Services*. Civic Engagement Paper No. 1.

Week 12, April 30, 2014: Developing an Effective Civic Presentation

Assignment Due: *Draft Presentation of Civic Research & Action Project*

****Friday, May 2, 2014: Civic Leadership Forum: Student and Group Presentations**

Assignment Due: *Presentation of Civic Research & Action Project Paper*

Week 13, May 7, 2014: Evaluating the Process: Critical Reflections about the Civic Leadership for Community Engagement Process

Assignment Due: *Final Civic Research & Action Project Paper*