

CIV-110 Civitas I Subtitles: Fall 2024

Star Wars, Stoicism & Citizenship

This course explores the role of emotion in local and national citizenship through the lens of science fiction, political science, and philosophy. Jedi Master Yoda says in the "Star Wars" universe: "Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering." Students in this course will learn to assess this claim's relevance upon our political lives and then how to address the concerns that heightened emotions present us.

Leap to Engaged Citizenship

This course explores the intersection of logic, ethics, love, and passion in life. *Logos, Ethos, Agape, and Pathos (LEAP)* enhance what Classical Greeks would call *Bios*, an engaged human lifestyle and ability to benefit individuals and societies. Through weekly discussions and readings, we explore the deeper meanings of *techne, estia, philia, storge, psyche, eros, polis, cosmos, eudaimonia, and zoe*. These words may seem like they are "*all Greek to you*", but we are well acquainted with and use them every day. This course will help you develop skills in open-inquiry, respectful dialogue, podcasting, debating, critical reading and reflective journaling.

Chemical Soup

This course will examine some of the major chemicals commonly used within communities. Chemicals such as pesticides, fluoride, and radioactive isotopes will be investigated. Students will research and discuss the history, economics, and benefits of each chemical while also learning about potential environmental and health concerns that their usage may cause. Students will employ this knowledge to decide whether the risks outweigh the benefits.

Freedom to Read: Reading's Role in Citizenship (2 sections available)

As students you are often told what to read and when to read it. But if we look at reading as a *right*, one of the elements that defines and maintains a free society, what changes? In this class, we will examine reading as a social practice, a political act, and a cognitive process. We will study reading & literacy in history, censorship, "banned books," misinformation, and information access to consider the larger question "how does reading help us become engaged as citizens and members of communities?"

MUSIC: Rhythm + Drumming = Engaged Citizenship

What does it mean to be an engaged citizen? What are the benefits and struggles? How are we impacted and inspired by the concept of rhythm? In this course, we will be exploring these and other questions by viewing and listening to different styles of music through the use of mixed media, and participating in a "hands-on" approach to the world of rhythm and drumming. This course will emphasize becoming an engaged, reflective, and responsible citizen of our campus community.

Exploring Ethics in Science

Civitas I is focused on what it means to be an engaged citizen and how to become an engaged citizen at Central College. To that end, we will develop scientific literacy to evaluate well-known ethical dilemmas across the sciences and analyze how scientists are citizens and how the layperson can use scientific advancement in a responsible fashion.

Be the Change You Wish to See...

Looking at the past and the present, this course examines the ways in which numerous people have tried to change the world. All have worked for change as citizens of this world in the company of others. All have been reflective, self-aware individuals. All have been aware of injustice and suffering. All have felt a sense of responsibility toward others and our shared environment. Students will read the work of activists, writers, social theorists, theologians, and other cultural commentators, and experiment with ways to work for change as citizens of Central College and the world.

Citizens or Subjects?

With a small d, the words democracy, democrat, and democratic refer to a type of self-government. The United States of America blends democracy (government by the people) with elements of a republic (government by representatives of the people). We self-govern by holding representatives accountable for their decisions through frequent elections based on the equality ethos of one person one vote. However, survey research in the first quarter of the 21st century suggests Americans are increasingly inclined to view partisan rivals as unfit for self-government and citizenship, which begs the question: Is democracy sustainable? Our Civitas I section addresses that question.

Gaming to Connect

Through game-based projects, we will explore the key features of engaged citizenship by looking to the example of historical figures who did it best. Then we'll put ourselves in their places and learn how they joined together to take action at the local level and, through persistence, collaboration, and compromise, overcame setbacks to arrive at solutions that eventually changed the world.

Music as Catalyst for Change, Healing & Growth

Focuses on the integration of music throughout all capacities of life, particularly exploring music as a propulsion for change, healing, and growth. Students examine music from different perspectives as consumers, creators, participants, and observers over a lifetime. The course challenges one's thought processes, invites innovation, and exploration in order to become involved in the life of Central College.

Infectious Diseases that Changed the World

This course will explore the ways disease-causing microorganisms have shaped and continue to shape human society.

Have Passport, Will Travel!

We will examine Central College's current study abroad programs. We will make connections between the history, culture, globalization, politics, environment and more between these locations and make comparisons to the United States. Students will have the opportunity to learn about our study abroad sites and gain a better understanding of what current events are happening at each site to become more aware global citizens. Students will read articles related to a location of their choice, participate in discussion boards, write papers and orally present their findings to the class and Central College community.

Storytelling and Change

Stories are everywhere. Stories entertain, explain, and illustrate. Most relevantly here, stories can persuade. They can change minds and, by extension, shape society. In this class we will consider the complex power of stories, both for the common good and, potentially, as an instrument of harm. We will also become storytellers ourselves and consider how to ethically and responsibly craft narratives about our own lives and those of others.