

CIV-110 Civitas I Subtitles: Fall 2026

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.

Money and the Society

This foundational course critically examines money not merely as currency, but as a social contract of value that defines economic life. We analyze core financial forces, including debt, inflation, and the politics of price, exploring their ethical implications and impact on systemic fairness. Students develop expertise in critical analysis, evidence-based argumentation, and civil dialogue on issues of economic equity and resource allocation.

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.

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 will learn to assess this claim's relevance upon our political lives and then how to address the concerns that heightened emotions present us.

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.

Music, Theatre and Social Change

This course will look at art, music and theatre through a social change lens. Students will read plays and watch live (filmed) theatre productions to determine their stance over various social change issues. Students will also be exposed to various cultural events both on campus and in the surrounding area. Students will also study things like protest songs (music) and visual art commenting on social change.

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.

Infectious Diseases that Changed the World

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

AI: Good or Evil?

GAI (general artificial intelligence) is everywhere, and like it or not, you've probably already used it. But how does AI impact shape our roles as communicators and citizens? How close is humankind to The Singularity? By exploring the ethical and societal implications of AI through class discussions and assignments, students will develop a nuanced understanding of their roles as informed citizens in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Climate Change Storytelling

Scientists know what causes climate change and what we humans can do to slow or reverse it, so why aren't we, as a global community, acting to counter this threat to our existence? This section of CIV 110 explores the human dimension of climate change, including why humans resist dealing with this problem and how we can use one of humanity's oldest tools-storytelling-to reverse this trend and provoke action in our communities. Additional course fee of \$25.00 required.

Conspiracy or Conspiracy Theory?

Conspiracy theories are everywhere. Some are specific (the moon landing was faked), and others are broad (Q-Anon). While conspiracy theories can be harmless, they can also be dangerous. So, what's the difference between an objectively confirmed conspiracy and a "conspiracy theory"? Throughout this course, we will explore this question to understand why people believe conspiracy theories, how they spread and their effects on society. Students will critically evaluate conspiracy theories and use their newfound knowledge to defend a conspiracy theory of their own.