



SENIOR SEMINAR: THE MEANING OF CITIZENSHIP

POLITICAL SCIENCE 492, SECTION I01, SPRING 2021

Dr. Erin N. Taylor • e-taylor@wiu.edu

Online Office Hours: T 11-12, W 1-3, TH 11-12 & by appointment

Class Meeting Time: 3:30-4:45, T&TH

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83572567354?pwd=RmNoTG45bjlpWEpUcEdFZGQrWk9rZz09>

Course Description

What does it mean to be a “citizen?” What rights do you receive with that title? What obligations do you have? What form of citizenship is ideal? What pressures does this institution face today, given new modes of transnational political and economic organization? Is immigration a benefit or a danger? And what moral obligations do we have to people who live outside of our borders?

As recent debates in this country and across the globe have demonstrated, we are living in a time of increasing confusion over who has the right to be called a citizen. This course is an exploration of the meaning of citizenship, designed to help you develop your own understanding of the term, its relation to your values, and the connection between your beliefs and political actions. Because of the wide-ranging nature of this question, it makes an especially good area for a senior seminar—we will draw from all the subfields of political science, using diverse analytical tools and modes of inquiry.

Over the course of this semester, you should:

- be able to clearly articulate the various conceptions of citizenship, as well as the major challenges facing traditional forms of political membership today.
- integrate this material with your other coursework.
- develop and explain your own understanding of the future of citizenship, applying it to your own experiences as a citizen.
- fine tune your “analytical thinking” about politics. This requires you to provide reasons for what you believe, to consider counterarguments, and to engage in an open dialogue with multiple perspectives.
- polish your ability to interpret texts and use textual evidence to support your claims and arguments, following standard ethical and scholarly practices for using sources.
- write clearly, creatively, persuasively.

This course has been designated to meet the Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) graduation requirement. WID courses provide instruction in the processes and formats for the writing content and style needed to be an effective professional in a student’s chosen field.

Course Requirements

Required Texts

Sophocles, *Antigone* (Hackett)

Dostoevsky, *The Grand Inquisitor* (Hackett)

Shafir, ed. *The Citizenship Debates* (U of MN Press)

Benhabib, *The Rights of Others* (Cambridge U Press)

Purchase of these editions of the texts is essential. (The only exception is if you're also taking my POLS 381 course or took it in the past and kept your books; *Theban Plays* contains Sophocles' *Antigone*, so you will not need to purchase it for this class.) To ensure that you're able to participate fully in discussions, always have your readings with you during class. Additional readings are available on Western Online (WO), and you should have these available to you during class sessions, as well.

Participation

Because it is a seminar, the majority of our class sessions will be conducted as in-depth discussions among everyone in the class. This means that the responsibility for engaging and meaningful learning in this course is shared among all of us, rather than simply being left up to me as your instructor. Therefore, it is crucial that everyone is **prepared to participate**. This means that you should complete the required readings carefully, taking notes in whichever style you find most useful (but one that involves some sort of writing), and review your notes before class. (See the section below about quizzes.)

For much of the class, we will have discussions, drawing on your reading, analyzing the texts and engaging in practical political thinking. Keep in mind that **participation includes many different things**—not only commenting on a passage, but also active listening (camera on!), asking questions, reading aloud, helping another person find the right page, clarifying a point, and meeting with me during office hours.

Assignments and Grading

This course is designed to help you think analytically and creatively about politics. To help measure your progress, your final grade will be based on the following:

<i>Epitaphios Logos</i> :	50 points
Assessment Exam:	25 points
Quizzes:	100 points
Class Facilitation:	75 points
Two Drafts:	50 points (25 each)
Reflective Essay:	200 points

A:	466 points or more	C:	366-383 points
A-:	450-465 points	C-:	350-365 points
B+:	434-449 points	D+:	334-349 points
B:	416-433 points	D:	316-333 points
B-:	400-415 points	D-:	300-315 points
C+:	384-399	F:	299 points or less

Epitaphios Logos

For the ancient Greeks, one way to celebrate their city and their place in it was through funeral orations (*epitaphios logos*). For example, Pericles' famous funeral oration celebrated not only the soldiers' sacrifices for the city, but also the city's qualities, the privileges enjoyed by its citizens, and the ability of all citizens to be involved in governance in some way. In a **minimum of 500 words**, write a funeral oration for yourself. Over the course of the piece, it should become clear what contributions you have made to your community and what sort of community that is. Be sure to specify what sorts of rights and obligations are entailed in your community and your relationship to them. This assignment (worth 50 points) will be due in Western Online by 11:59 pm on February 9; late assignments will lose five points for each day they are late.

Assessment Exam

Each year, the Political Science Department administers an exam to all seniors to assess your learning in the major. This exam will be administered during class time on **January 26** and will include three critical readings and 40 multiple-choice questions. Your grade on this exam will not affect your grade in the course; however, you must score a 30% or better to earn the 25 points for completing the exam. In addition, the assessment exam will provide the one and only opportunity for extra credit in this course. Students scoring 70%-79% will earn 5 extra credit points, students scoring 80%-89% will earn 10 extra credit points, and students scoring 90% or more will earn 15 extra credit points.

Quizzes

Each day during class, a five-question quiz will be administered using the polling feature in Zoom. These quizzes will be open book and open note, meaning that you may use your text along with any notes that you have taken on the readings. However, quizzes will have a **4-minute** time limit, which means that there won't be time to look up all of the answers, so doing the assigned reading and taking notes to be ready for these quizzes is vital. Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped from your final quiz average, which will be worth 100 points.

Class Facilitation

During the second half of the semester, you will be responsible for writing quiz and discussion questions for one of our readings. During class, you will lead a portion of the discussion of that reading using some of the questions you have written. Your facilitation—including your quiz questions, your discussion questions, and serving as a discussion leader in class—will be worth 75 points.

Reflective Essay & Drafts

Since this assignment is lengthy and is worth 200 points, a major part of your grade, please read the detailed instructions and rubric (both available on WO) carefully—early and often!—and contact me with any questions. Keeping up with the readings, preparing well for class, and taking good notes are the best and only ways to ensure that your essays are interesting and well written. To get feedback before the final reflective essay is due, you will turn in a draft of the “Exploration” section on March 9 and a draft of the “Explanation” section on March 23; each of these drafts will be worth 25 points.

Attendance

Because of the nature of this course, each meeting is critical and you are expected to attend the entirety of every class session; missing more than 10 minutes of class is considered an absence. I will download attendance information from Zoom daily and, after your first unexcused absence, **each additional unexcused absence will result in a 15-point grade deduction.** If you need to miss class for **any reason** and would like to have your absence excused **and** earn credit for that day's missed quiz, please just contact me via email **before the end** of the class you will be missing (by **4:45 pm**). I will send you a writing prompt related to the topic discussed in class and you will have the opportunity to complete a **500-word assignment** to make up for the missed class discussion and quiz. This make-up assignment will be due via email before the next class period (unless we negotiate alternate arrangements) and will be graded, with that grade substituted for your missed quiz. Please note that if you do **not** email me **before the end** of the class you are missing, this option for an excused absence **will not be available.** No matter why you miss class and whether or not you choose to notify me or do the make-up assignment, it is **your responsibility** to find out what you missed from me or one of your classmates.

Email

During the workday (8 am to 5 pm), I usually respond to email within hours, but it does take me longer in the evenings and on weekends, when I try to spend time away from screens. For this reason, you should just assume that a) if you email me in the evening, you will hear back from me the next day and b) if you email me over the weekend, you will hear back from me on Monday. It will help me get back to you more quickly when you include the number or name of the course (POLs 492 or Senior Seminar) in your subject heading.

Zoom Classroom Guidelines

Though classes conducted in Zoom will never be exactly like classes conducted in person, my goal is to try to emulate the face-to-face classroom environment as much as possible. To help me with that, please:

- attend our Zoom meetings from a relatively **quiet place** where you are **free to speak** out loud to participate in discussion.
- keep your **video on** so that your classmates and I can see you; this is especially important in a seminar, since visual, non-verbal feedback (nodding, etc.) is a vital part of productive discussion.
- **mute** your microphone when you are not speaking to avoid picking up any background noise.
- use the **raise hand** feature in Zoom when you have a question or want to contribute to the discussion. When I see your hand raised, I will call on you and you can unmute yourself and speak. When you're done, you will need to re-mute yourself and lower your hand.

Students with Disabilities

In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact Disability Resources at 309-298-1884, sdsc@wiu.edu or in 125 Memorial Hall. Please notify me as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

Sex Discrimination and Sexual Assault or Misconduct

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:

http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php.

If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator, no matter when or where the incident occurred. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Student Rights and Responsibilities & Academic Integrity

You are required to familiarize yourself with the university's Student Rights and Responsibilities and Academic Integrity Policies, which are available at the following URLs:

<http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students/>

<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Please pay special attention to the Academic Integrity Policy. I take academic integrity seriously, and all violations of this policy will be punished in accordance with the guidelines it describes; all assignments submitted containing any plagiarism will automatically earn zeroes.

Calendar

This schedule may be changed if the needs of the class or circumstances change. Changes will be announced in class and online, via email and/or on Western Online. It is your responsibility to come to class and to check your email and the course's Western Online page regularly. Readings should be done by the date next to which they are listed. **Please reach out (e-taylor@wiu.edu) if you have questions!**

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
T Jan 19	Course Introduction		
TH Jan 21	What is a Seminar?		
T Jan 26*	Facilitation Planning & Assessment		Assessment Exam Due by 4:45 pm
What Does it Mean to be a Citizen?			
TH Jan 28	Rights and Obligations	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> , pp. 1-58	
T Feb 2	Rights and Obligations	Pericles, "Funeral Oration" (WO) The Declaration of Independence (WO) US Bill of Rights (WO)	
TH Feb 4	Difficulties and Dangers	Dostoevsky, "Rebellion," "The Grand Inquisitor," pp. 7-37	
T Feb 9*	Difficulties and Dangers	Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone," pp. 65-78 (WO)	<i>Epitaphios Logos</i> Due by 11:59 pm
TH Feb 11	Difficulties and Dangers	Václav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless": Section I, p. 127; Sections III-IX, pp. 132-154; Sections XX-XXII, pp. 205-214 (WO)	
Forms of Citizenship			
T Feb 16	Classical	J.G.A. Pocock, "The Ideal of Citizenship Since Classical Times," pp. 31-41 (CD-Citizenship Debates)	
TH Feb 18	Liberal	Peter Schuck, "Liberal Citizenship," pp. 131-144 (WO)	
T Feb 23*	Reflective Essay Discussion	Reflective Essay Assignment Sheet	
TH Feb 25	Civic Republican	Adrian Oldfield, "Citizenship and Community: Civic Republicanism and the Modern World," pp. 75-89 (CD)	
T Mar 2	Social Democratic	T.H. Marshall, "Citizenship and Social Class," pp. 93-111 (CD)	
TH Mar 4	Multicultural	Will Kymlicka, "Multicultural Citizenship," pp. 167-188 (CD)	
T Mar 9*	Feminist	Kathleen Jones, "Citizenship in a Woman-Friendly Polity," pp. 221-250 (CD)	Exploration Draft Due by 11:59 pm
What Do We Owe Each Other?			
TH Mar 11	Rawls	John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness in the Liberal Polity," pp. 53-74 (CD)	
T Mar 16	Allen	Danielle Allen, <i>Talking to Strangers</i> , pp. 1-49 (WO)	

TH Mar 18	King & Obama	Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have A Dream" (WO) Barack Obama, "A More Perfect Union" (WO)	
T Mar 23*	Discussion Facilitation Instructions	Class Facilitation Assignment Sheet	Explanation Draft Due by 11:59 pm
Contemporary Challenges			
TH Mar 25	Who Are "We"? <i>Student-Facilitated</i>	Rogers Smith, "The 'American Creed' and American Identity: The Limits of Liberal Citizenship in the United States" pp. 225-251 & "The Challenges Facing American Citizenship Today" pp. 679-681 (both on WO)	
T Mar 30	Who Are "We"? <i>Student-Facilitated</i>	"Immigration & National Identity" Symposium, <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> pp. 277-296 (WO)	
TH Apr 1	Not "We" <i>Student-Facilitated</i>	Barzoo Eliassi, "Conceiving Citizenship and Statelessness in the Middle East and Sweden: The Experiences of Kurdish Migrants in Sweden" (WO)	
T Apr 6*	Not "We" <i>Student-Facilitated</i>	USCIS, A Guide to Naturalization (WO)	
TH Apr 8	Changing Locations For Citizenship <i>Student-Facilitated</i>	Linda Bosniak, "Citizenship Denationalized" (WO) & Rainer Bauböck, "Expansive Citizenship: Voting beyond Territory and Membership" (WO)	
T Apr 13	No Class		
TH Apr 15	The Effort to Redefine Citizenship <i>Student-Facilitated</i>	Riva Kastoryano, "Citizenship, Nationhood, and Non-Territoriality: Transnational Participation in Europe" (WO) & Stephen Castles, "Hierarchical Citizenship in a World of Unequal Nation-States" (WO)	
Human Rights, Citizenship, and Sovereignty			
T Apr 20*	Human Rights	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (WO)	
TH Apr 22	Benhabib	Seyla Benhabib, <u>The Rights of Others</u> pp. 1-69	
T Apr 27*	Benhabib	Seyla Benhabib, <u>The Rights of Others</u> pp. 129-169	
TH Apr 29	Benhabib	Seyla Benhabib, <u>The Rights of Others</u> pp. 171-221	
TH May 6	Final Exam Period		Reflective Essay Due by 4:50 pm