Darien Learning Community
Topics in Political Science: Citizenship & Civic Engagement
790:251

Instructor/Contact Information:
Elizabeth C. Matto, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor
Director, Youth Political Participation Program
732-932-9384 ext. 256
ematto@rci.rutgers.edu

Liz Mahn
Darien Learning Community Graduate Coordinator
Department of Political Science & Eagleton Institute of Politics
lizmahn@gmail.com

Meeting Time/Location:
Topics in Political Science: Citizenship & Civic Engagement
Mondays, 10:55AM-12:15PM
Eagleton Institute of Politics, Library

American Political Thought
Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:55PM-5:15PM

Office Hours (all office hours held at the Eagleton Institute of Politics):
• TBD

The purpose of this experience is to link the study of civic education with the civic and political engagement of young people living in our community. This purpose will be pursued by preparing and implementing the civic education initiative RU Ready™ in New Brunswick Public Schools and schools in our community.

Grading/Course Expectations:
Through RU Ready™, DLC students will support the project’s civic education efforts as well as construct and implement an original workshop to be administered to middle school and high school students. By making this individual contribution, DLC will directly impact RU Ready™’s efforts to equip and encourage young people in our community to be active
This course is worth 1.5 credits, and it is expected that students will devote 60 hours to the course over the course of the semester. Any time spent on efforts related to this course (including weekly meetings) counts towards those 60 hours.

- Grading
  - 30% of each student’s grade is based on the original RU Ready™ Workshop they design and implement. A rubric will be provided to students regarding how all aspects of the project will be assessed and will include:
    - Project proposal
    - RU Ready™ workshop
    - Final presentation - At the completion of the semester, students will make a public presentation at the Eagleton Institute of Politics about their workshops and their experience with the DLC.
  - Reflection papers (45%) – Students will write three 5-page reflection papers over the course of the semester (each is worth 15% of the final grade). Topics will be assigned by the instructor and offer students an opportunity to reflect on their appreciation of youth political participation in light of the coursework and hand-on activities. **Three points will be deducted for each day a paper is late.**
  - Participation (25%) – The success of the DLC is dependent upon each student’s participation both inside and outside of the classroom. Students are expected to come to class having read the readings and prepared to engage in discussion. In addition, students are expected to play an active role in RU Ready™ by administering the project in the classrooms of partner schools and assisting with the “Young Leaders Conference”.

- Students are expected to adhere to Rutgers University’s policy regarding academic integrity. To view the policy, go to [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/)
- To report an absence, go to: [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/).
- DLC students will play an integral role in the success of RU Ready™’s efforts and are expected to represent themselves in a professional and respectful manner and uphold the mission of RU Ready™ and the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

**Research:**

Students enrolled in 790:251 and 790:376 will have the opportunity to be subjects in research studying students’ political knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The research includes an assessment and, for DLC participants, reflection papers, and a public presentation. The identity of research subjects will remain confidential, participation is voluntary, and students will be offered an opportunity to opt out of the research without penalty. IRB # E12-484.
Course Schedule (**Please note that the course schedule is subject to change**)  

WEEK 1  
- Suggested readings:  

WEEK 2  
- Suggested readings:  

WEEK 3  
- Proposals for in-class workshops due  
- Suggested readings:  
  - *Civic and Political Health of the Nation* (CIRCLE)

WEEK 4  
- Prepare in-class workshop  
- Suggested readings:  
  - CIRCLE factsheets on youth demographics

WEEK 5  
- Prepare in-class workshop  
- Suggested readings:  
  - Sanchez-Jankowski’s “Minority Youth and Civic Engagement: The Impact of Group Relations”.  

WEEK 6  
- Prepare in-class workshop  
- Reflection Paper #1 Due  
- Suggested readings:


WEEK 7
- Administer in-class workshop
- Students must meet with the instructor to discuss progress and to receive a mid-semester assessment of his or her performance up to that point.

WEEK 8
- Administer in-class workshop

WEEK 9
- Administer in-class workshop

WEEK 10
- Reflection Paper #2 Due

WEEK 11
- “Young Leader Conference” preparation
- Prepare final presentation

WEEK 12
- “Young Leader Conference” preparation
- Prepare final presentation

WEEK 13
- “Young Leader Conference”
- Prepare final presentation

WEEK 14
- Final presentation at Eagleton Institute of Politics
- Reflection Paper #3 Due
Suggested Materials/Websites

*Civic and Political Health of the Nation Report*, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), www.civicyouth.org.


“Civic Mission of Schools” Carnegie Corporation of New York and Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement.

Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) website, www.civicyouth.org.


“The Biannual Youth Survey on Politics and Public Service”, Harvard University, Institute of Politics. 
http://www.iop.harvard.edu/Research-Publications/Polling/Spring-2012-Survey


