



**Darien Civic Engagement Project (DCEP)
Spring 2020**

Course Name & Number

Topics in Political Science: Citizenship & Civic Engagement: 790:251

Sakai Site:

Meeting Time/Location:

Mondays, 10:55AM-12:15PM
Eagleton Institute of Politics, Library

Instructor/Contact Information:

Professor Elizabeth C. Matto
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Professor Matto's Office Hours (all office hours held at the Eagleton Institute of Politics):

- Wednesdays, 12-2PM
- By appointment

Academic Integrity Policy

Students are expected to adhere to Rutgers University's policy regarding academic integrity. To view the policy, go to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. Violations include include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

Please see this useful guide regarding avoiding plagiarism: *Consult Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research!* For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident. http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism

Books and Materials

All readings are available online - URLs are provided in syllabus.

Reporting Absences

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Course Structure/Grading:

The purpose of this experience is to link the study of politics and civic engagement education with the engagement of young people living in our community. This purpose will be pursued by administering the initiative **RU Ready** in New Brunswick Public Schools. Through **RU Ready**, *DCEP* students will consider the connections between the theory and the practice of civic education and experience the connection firsthand via their interactions with the high school students. By making this individual contribution, *DCEP* will directly impact **RU Ready's** efforts to equip and encourage young people in our community to be active citizens.

***DCEP* students working on RU Ready will be required to complete a background check and be fingerprinted. Students must pay for these procedures up front but will be reimbursed by CYPP. In addition, RU Ready Rutgers students will be registered in the Protection of Minors (POM) database and must successfully complete the "Protection of Minors Online Training".**

- Grading
 - **Demographic Profile Presentation** - 30% of each student's grade is based on the creation and presentation of a demographic profile of the City of New Brunswick and New Brunswick High School. Students will work in groups and deliver a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to the entire class.
 - 20% of this component consists of the presentation itself.
 - 10% consists of submitting a 1-2 page description detailing student's role in preparing the presentation.
 - **Reflection Papers** (50%) – Students will write 2 reflection papers over the course of the semester (each is worth 25% 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 considering the coursework and hand-on activities. A grading rubric is available on sakai. **Three points will be deducted for each day a paper is late.**
 - **Participation** (20%) – The success of the *DCEP* 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** in the following ways (students are required to participate in at least 2 of the following activities)
 - Assist in administering workshops – **Weeks of February 24, March 2, March**

- Assist with preparation and administration of *RU Ready Young Leaders Conference* – **March 27th**
 - Assist with RU Ready Civics Fair – **Weeks of April 20, April 27**
- Students are expected to participate in our end-of-the-semester luncheon (**April 27**)
- Students will be informed mid-semester (as well as other times throughout the semester) how well they are performing in this area in order to make any necessary improvements by the end of the semester.
- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.
- Full disability policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>
- *DCEP* 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 the program and the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

Course Schedule (Please note that the course schedule is subject to change to schedule observations at NBHS as well as the administration of the in-class sessions)**

Week of January 27

Introduction to the Darien Civic Engagement Project and RU Ready

Week of February 3

What are the Goals of Civic Education?, Part I

- Readings:
 - *Guardians of Democracy: Civic Mission of Schools*:
<http://www.civicmissionofschoools.org/the-campaign/guardian-of-democracy-report>
(Sections: Introduction, Civic Common Sense, Benefits of Civic Learning)
 - Westheimer, Joel and Joseph Kahne. 'Educating the "Good" Citizen: Political Choices and Pedagogical Goals". *Political Science and Politics*, April 2004: 241-247.

Week of February 10

What are the Goals of Civic Education?, Part II & What Do Students Know About Politics?

- Readings:
 - *Guardians of Democracy: Civic Mission of Schools:*
<http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/the-campaign/guardian-of-democracy-report> (Sections: Proven Practices in Civic Learning, Promoting Civic Learning, Civic Learning Policy Recommendations, Conclusion)
 - Executive Summary, The Nation’s Report Card: Civics 2010. National Assessment of Educational Progress:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pubs/main2010/2011466.asp>
 - CIRCLE. 2013. "What the NAEP Civics Assessment Measures and How Students Perform": <http://www.civicyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/NAEP-Fact-Sheet-2013.pdf>

Week of February 17

Is There a Right to a Civic Education?

- Readings:
 - “Are Civics Lessons a Constitutional Right? This Student is Suing for Them”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/28/us/civics-rhode-island-schools.html>
 - “Lawsuits Won’t Solve Our Civics Crisis”
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nataliewexler/2018/11/30/lawsuits-wont-solve-our-civics-crisis/#71426ea231d4>

Week of February 24

Presentations of Demographic Profiles of New Brunswick High School & the City of New Brunswick

Administer/Observe RU Ready In-Class Workshops

Week of March 2

Administer/Observe RU Ready In-Class Workshops

Week of March 9

Administer/Observe RU Ready In-Class Workshops

Reflection Paper #1 Due

Week of March 16

Rutgers University Spring Break

Week of March 23

Prepare for RU Ready "Young Leaders Conference"

Week of March 30

How Do We Teach Citizenship?

- Readings:
 - Godsay and Sullivan's "A National Survey of Civics and U.S. Government Teachers": http://civicyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CIRCLE_FS2014_TeacherSurvey.pdf
 - Beth Rubin's *Making Citizens: Transforming Civic Learning for Diverse Social Studies Classrooms*, Chapter 1.

Week of April 6

The "Civic Opportunity Gap"

- Readings:
 - Kahne and Middaugh's "Democracy for Some: The Civic Opportunity Gap in High School": <http://www.civicyouth.org/circle-working-paper-59-democracy-for-some-the-civic-opportunity-gap-in-high-school/>
 - Rubin, B.C. 2007. "There's still not justice": Youth civic identity development amid distinct school and community contexts. *Teachers College Record*, 109(2): 449-481

Week of April 13

The State of Civic Education

- Readings:
 - Kawashima-Ginsberg, Kei & Peter Levine. "Policy Effects on Informed Political Engagement." *American Behavioral Scientist*, 2014: 665-688.
 - Kawashima-Ginsberg, Kei. "The Future of Civic Education": http://www.nasbe.org/wp-content/uploads/Future-of-Civic-Education_September-2016-Standard.pdf

Prepare for RU Ready Civics Fair

Week of April 20

Administer RU Ready Civics Fair

Week of April 27

End of the Semester Presentations and Celebration

Administer RU Ready Civics Fair

Week of May 4

- **Reflection Paper #2 Due**

Student-Wellness Services

[Just In Case Web App](#)

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.