

PAF 112: Identity, Service and American Democracy



Overview

In this course, you will learn about civic engagement and how people like you shape the world. You will also gain insight into how you can become an active and engaged member of your own community. You will interview public service leaders, investigate local issues, and form the what, why, and how of civic engagement, which you will use to create a civic action portfolio. This course was designed through a unique partnership with Service Year Alliance and Arizona State University. This course is ideal for those looking to identify pathways to civic action, such as corps members working in their year of service, individuals who would like to get more involved in their neighborhoods and cities, or those interested in creating change in their community.

Course Prerequisites and Requirements

To be successful in this course, we recommend English language fluency and computer literacy. We also encourage you to make sure your laptop or desktop computer meets the technical requirements.

What You'll Learn

- Examine the concepts of civic engagement, identity, political engagement, social engagement, democracy, government, social capital, federalism, voting processes, nonprofit organization, civil society, interest groups, mobilization, and lobbying
- Explain why American democracy is unique and the contribution of social capital in American society
- Examine cultural diversity in the US and contemporary concepts of multiculturalism, cultural relativism, and cultural subordination
- Demonstrate an understanding of current and historical social and political movements based on culture, including race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual identity, and generational culture
- Compare and contrast the types of political engagement and social engagement
- Describe how the tensions in American society related to identity (i.e., gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, (dis)ability, employment type) have influenced political action
- Explain the critical role that social service organizations play in American democracy
- Analyze the role of culture and cultural elements in identity formation and associations with others of similar identity and the social contributions of these associations
- Discuss how service work creates an identity and contributes to community building
- Evaluate your identity based on the categories discussed in this course and demonstrate how it influences your pathway to civic engagement
- Create an action plan of community service based on your identity using at least one of the six public service pathways
- Based on concepts such as identity, civic engagement, political engagement, social engagement, social capital, and mobilization, analyze a public service organization



Transcript

This course appears on your transcript identically to how it appears on the transcript of an enrolled ASU student who has taken the course on one of ASU's campuses.

This course satisfies 3 credit hours toward the Social-Behavioral (SB) and Cultural Diversity in the United States (C) General Studies requirement at Arizona State University. It is strongly encouraged that you consult with your institution of choice to determine how these credits will be applied to their degree requirements prior to transferring your credit.

Exams and Grading

50%
ePortfolio

50%
Quizzes (5)

Creator

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Dr. Eileen Eisen-Cohen has held leadership positions in many nonprofit and public organizations for over 20 years. She is currently employed as the Performance Improvement Manager with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health working with quality improvement and performance management systems. Eileen has experience leading work teams, community partners, and stakeholders in local and statewide initiatives, and serves on several executive boards of directors for grassroots and community organizations. She has worked in public administration and program evaluation for 30 years. As a Faculty Associate for the ASU School of Public Affairs, Dr. Eisen-Cohen teaches courses in Management, Public Policy, Program Evaluation, Leadership, and Women and Politics.

