Overview

Have you ever read the news or overheard a conversation about politics and felt helpless? You are not alone! Many people ask questions like: Does my vote matter? How do federal policies affect me? How can I make a difference? American Democracy is defined by its people participating, voicing their opinion, and making a difference.

About this course

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.

Required prior knowledge and skills

To be successful in this course, we recommend English language fluency and computer literacy.

Learning Outcomes

You will learn:
- The basic principles of American Democracy and how they apply today
- About civic engagement
- How civic engagement has shaped the United States
- How citizenship has changed over time through civic engagement
- How to identify pathways to public service

Additional Info

This is a three credit hour course that counts toward the Social-Behavioral Sciences (SB) and Cultural Diversity in the United States (C) General Studies requirements 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.

Service Corps Members and Alumni: Service Corps members and alumni who wish to receive academic credit for this course may use their Eli Segal Education Award to cover the $400 course fee. To use the Eli Segal Education Award, sign up for the course here, and select the “Credit; Segal” option during the sign up process.
Jonathan GS Koppell
Dean of the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions

Dr. Koppell is the Lattie and Elva Coor Presidential Chair and Professor in the School of Public Affairs and Dean of the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. He received his A.B. in Government Studies from Harvard College and M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley in 1993, 1996, and 2000, respectively. Areas of expertise include global governance, public finance and financial regulation, and quasi-government, corporate governance.

Major Works

Eileen Eisen-Cohen
Faculty Associate for the ASU School of Public Affairs

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.