



PAF 112: Identity, Service, and American Democracy

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. 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.

What You'll Learn

- Examine the concepts of civic, political, and social engagement, identity, democracy, government, social capital, federalism, voting processes, nonprofit organization, civil society, interest groups, mobilization, and lobbying
- 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
- Based on concepts such as identity, civic engagement, political engagement, social engagement, social capital, and mobilization, analyze a public service organization

How to Succeed

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](#).

Earn College Credit

This course appears on your transcript identically to how it appears on the transcript of an enrolled ASU student.

This course satisfies 3 credit hours toward the Social-Behavioral (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.

In order to receive academic credit for this course, you must earn a grade of "C" or better. You have one year to add the course to your transcript.

Exams and Grading

50%

ePortfolio

50%

Quizzes

PAF 112: Continued

Time Commitment

This is an asynchronous, online course. This means, while you will have deadlines, you do not need to be at your computer at specific times or participate in live activities.

To be successful in this class, you must view all course pages and complete all graded work by the deadlines indicated. Also, keep in mind that "attendance" in an online course means logging into the platform on a regular basis, checking for course announcements, and visiting and participating in the discussion forums.

This 3 credit, 8 week course requires about 135 hours of work. Therefore, expect to spend approximately 15-20 hours per week preparing for and engaging in this course.

Materials

This course makes use of open educational resources (OERs) provided within the course, **no purchase necessary**.

Graded Assignments

Graded assignments are required and count towards your final grade. Students must submit all assignments via the course site unless otherwise instructed.

ePortfolio Assignments (50%): In each module there is a Civic Action ePortfolio assignment. You will be creating a personal website to post these assignments, preferably in Weebly. Each assignment has two components: action and reflection. In the action portion, you will either venture into your community or research the resources available in your community related to an issue that matters to you. In the reflection portion of each assignment, you will reflect on what you learned in the module and how it applies to the information you gathered from your community.

Quizzes (50%): There are five quizzes, worth 20 points each. The quizzes are open book and must be completed by you. The quizzes include 10 to 20 questions, which may be multiple choice, multiple answer, or true/false. Each quiz is based on the readings, lectures, and video materials for the entire module. You can only take a quiz once and you'll have 60 minutes to complete the quiz.

Assignment Deadlines

Your instructional team will provide all content and learning activities on or through your course site. It is your responsibility to review all content, fulfill all assignments on time, and ask any questions you have in the designated discussion area. It is also your responsibility to determine the due dates and times for all course assignments according to your time zone. Due to the large-scale format of Universal Learner Courses, late assignments will not be accepted at any point during the course, and we cannot make exceptions.

Course Communication

All communication will take place via the discussion forums and course announcement page. There will be a discussion forum where you can post general questions, comments, and direct inquiries for the instructor and course team. Please use these forums to ensure a timely response. Your instructor will not be able to respond to email.

Additional Information

If you have questions about Universal Learner Courses and how they work, please visit ea.asu.edu or contact our support team at ulcourses@asu.edu.