

CITIZEN NATION

Contested history and meanings of US citizenship, now and in the past

Course Basics

This course meets in person on Tues / Thurs at 1 pm (unless public health restrictions require us to alter our plans).

Location: Room S-104

Instructor Info

Instructor: **Dr. Tona Hangen**

Office: Sullivan 327D, x8688

Email: thangen@worchester.edu

Voicemail / text: 617-506-9440

Required Books

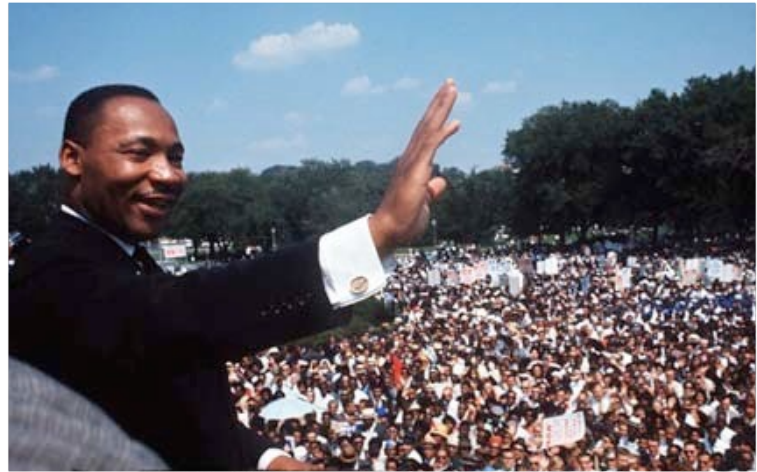
Richard Bellamy, *Citizenship: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford UP, 2008) ISBN:

978-019-2802538 [available as WSU Library eBook]

Michael Waldman, *The Fight to Vote* (Simon and Schuster, make sure it's a **2022 edition**).

ISBN: 978-1-9821-9893-0
[available as WSU Library eBook]

Other readings will be available as a printed **Course Reader** and on Blackboard.



Martin Luther King, Jr at the March on Washington, August 1963

About the Course

This course is an upper-level seminar on the history and meanings of American citizenship, organized around several guiding essential questions: who counts as an American? As a society, how do we decide who gets to be a citizen? What does it mean to be an American citizen? What rights, privileges, and responsibilities are part of that definition? In the founding generation, citizenship was limited to property-owning white men, and since that time, struggles to expand American citizenship have been at the core of the American story.

Topics for our Consideration

Citizen Nation will cover relevant language and amendments in Massachusetts and U.S. Constitutions, Supreme Court decisions,





When did Native Americans become citizens?

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

By the end of the course, students will be able to...

- Develop a theoretical and interpretive framework for the concept of citizenship and how it has changed over time in the United States
- Analyze and compare key episodes in U.S. history in light of dynamic or competing definitions of American citizenship
- Explain the development of the U.S. and MA constitutions in context of historical political processes, including: convention, drafting, ratification, amendment, judicial rulings, challenge, protest, and reinterpretation
- Trace the expansion—and current limits—of the boundaries of American citizenship
- Craft a historically-informed personal understanding of one's own citizenship

and collective action by historically marginalized and excluded groups. It draws on new scholarship about American citizenship, shines a light on current naturalization procedures and their turbulent past, and follows ongoing debates on policies related to citizenship, voting, and immigration. I teach it every election year fall semester.

I developed this course in response to several interconnected trends: 1) the nation is becoming more diverse, in part due to immigration and globalization in the last few decades, and 2) general political engagement and vote turnout is often low. Yet, 3) American democracy itself is threatened by dark money, gerrymandering, voter restriction laws and fears of voter fraud, partisan polarization, political dis/misinformation, foreign meddling, and outright insurrection. How do these realities intersect, and what do they mean for us now and for the future? Students of all nationalities will benefit from learning about the complex history of the categories of American citizenship and the legacy of discrimination and exclusion experienced by so many people in the American past and present.

As a 300-level LASC course, it is intended to be challenging, even for advanced and Honors students. But it's relevant to all: a main goal of the course is to appreciate the meaning of American citizenship in the history of our nation and in your own life.



Milwaukee voters wait in long lines on April 7, 2020 during a state primary. Only five polling places were open for the entire city. Many people later tested positive for Covid-19.

Course Policies

See also “Syllabus Additional Information” posted on Blackboard.

Communication: For general course questions, please post in the Blackboard Help Forum; I (or your classmates) will respond there since other learners may benefit from the same information. For questions that need one-on-one resolution, connect with me using any of these: email (thangen@worchester.edu); scheduled office hours (in-person or Zoom); make an appointment for an in-person or Zoom visit; or phone / text to this number: (617) 506-9440. During the week I try to answer same day during business hours; be patient on evenings or weekends, as it may take me longer to respond.

Technology in Class: Electronic devices are welcome in class, but please stay on task. Misuse of internet access during class is a distraction to your learning and a disruption of the learning environment of the entire class. Silence cell phones before you enter the classroom and refrain from texting or social media use in class.

Academic Integrity: All assignments created for this course should be original to this course (it is unethical to submit work you completed for another class), must be your own work, and must be your own writing. When and where you employ the work of others, do so responsibly and cite your sources using standard citation methods (Chicago Style for History, APA for Political Science). Plagiarized work or exam cheating is an automatic zero on the assignment and may cause you to fail the course. Such violations are a serious breach of the student Code of Conduct. Please familiarize yourself with and follow the University Policy on Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

Student Accessibility: I am committed to providing a learning environment in which all students can succeed. All accommodations requested through Student Accessibility Services will be honored. Please present SAS documentation as soon as possible so we can design a plan to help you be successful. And if you see ways the course can be more accessible for a diversity of students, please let me know.

Vote in MA 2022

Primary Day: Sept 6

Early Voting: October 22 - Nov 4

Deadline to register to vote in the November election: 8 pm Oct 28

Last day to request mailed ballot: Nov 1

Election Day Nov 8, 2022. Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before this day.

For more information:
mass.gov/topics/voting or
sec.state.ma.us/election



Suffrage activists in Pennsylvania in 1916 — Were women legal persons? Citizens? Voters?

Grading Scale

Attendance and Participation

Active Presence	11
Campaign Watch	5
Response Papers	9

Citizen Project

Proposal	5
Prof Conference	5
Draft / Biblio / Memo	10
Final Web Version	10
Lighting Round	5
Abstract / Revision	5

Assessments

C-Exam Retake / Reflect	5
Citizenship Def Doc	10
Final Exam	20

Total 100 points

Final Grade

A	94 or higher
A -	90 - 93
B+	87 - 89
B	84 - 86
B -	80 - 83
C+	77 - 79
C	74 - 76
C -	70 - 73
D+	67 - 69
D	64 - 66
D -	60 - 63
E	59 or below

Course Requirements

Course Specifications

To succeed in this course, you need to be comfortable using Blackboard and WSU email, including uploading documents and making email attachments. You need reliable internet access throughout the entire course that will support use of videoconferencing software. You need a device that allows you to access audio and video content. You will need Adobe Reader and a full installation of Microsoft Office (available as free download from WSU Information Technologies). You should know how to insert academic references in Word and how to save and send documents in multiple formats (such as .docx and .pdf). You need to be comfortable communicating and writing in standard business English.

Unless we have to move our work online, the course format is planned for fully in-person learning.

Prepared Participation, aka "Active Presence"

Everyone needs to show regular presence / attendance *and* contribute substantively and respectfully throughout the course. I make every effort to make our classroom a physically and intellectually safe space for sharing ideas and open discussion (even of difficult topics), and in return I expect you will arrive prepared and eager to contribute to the quality of our classroom environment and support others' learning.

"Participation" in this course includes monitoring news of the 2022 midterm election and giving an oral or video presentation on a relevant current event or news topic, writing short papers in response to given prompts, contributing constructively and substantively in class discussion, and completing informal learning activities in or out of class as assigned. A variety of participation activities gives everyone multiple ways to show their engagement and demonstrate their learning.

Health Concerns

If you know you are contagious to others, if you are self-quarantining after a known exposure, or you are experiencing any symptoms of illness, please *stay home* to keep yourself and others safe. I do not need to see doctor's notes or any other documentation of medical care during or after an absence; you are an adult and I trust you to make responsible choices about when to be around others safely. If you need to make alternate arrangements for participation and attendance for personal or health reasons, I encourage you to keep me informed as you coordinate your accommodations through Student Accessibility Services or the Provost's Office and make sure you have support services in place. The most important thing is to *take care of yourself and others*.

Citizen Project

Much of your semester will be devoted to designing and carrying out an independent research project related to the history or current politics of citizenship, immigration, or voting rights. The final product becomes part of a class-authored website. Your piece of the site involves long-term planning and research. It is not something to be hastily assembled right before it is due. For that reason, the project is built and graded in stages over many weeks, starting with a proposal, a research meeting with me, a draft and early bibliography, a final version (possibly with further revisions), self-reflection, and an oral or video presentation.

Appropriate to an upper-level seminar, the Citizen Project is an essential element of your learning in the course and demonstrates your achievement of the course learning outcomes, as well as core LASC outcomes in the realms of written and oral communication, critical thinking, and information literacy. If conducting research in

the humanities and social sciences is unfamiliar to you, or you struggle with academic writing, then please make use of my office hours, the library's reference assistance, tutoring services, and/or the University Writing Center early and often. You have lots of support, but you will also need to put in hard work to meet the project's rigorous criteria. See Blackboard and course website resources for complete guidelines and rubrics.

Assessments

There will be two exams evaluating your course knowledge. You will take, and then study for and retake, the US citizenship exam and reflect on your experience with this assessment. At the end of the course, there will be a cumulative final exam (online / take-at-home) that covers material from the entire semester.

Grading, Late Work, and Extra Credit

Grades for learning activities and Response Papers will be posted to Blackboard Gradebook within 10 weekdays after the due date, usually with a brief comment under "Feedback to Learner." Grades for the Citizen Project's intermediate steps will have faster turnaround and more personalized feedback—usually via email, with details of the timing to be communicated in Blackboard Announcements. Work submitted after the assigned deadline will still be accepted, but for partial credit. See assignment guidelines for specifics.

Extra credit is available for participating in a campus or local election 2022 event, such as serving as a poll worker, attending or volunteering at a US naturalization ceremony, assisting with voting registration, being part of phone bank efforts to give voters information, volunteering with a 2022 campaign, or similar efforts above and beyond course expectations. Consult with me about details.

Course Schedule and Deadlines

Syllabus and readings are subject to change; check Blackboard Announcements for course updates.

#	DATE	TOPIC	WHAT TO READ / VIEW	WHAT'S DUE
Unit 1: What's At Stake				
1	Tues 9/6	Course Introductions & Getting Started	Syllabus and Bbd environment Classmates' Welcome Videos Past Student Advice & Projects	Prof and Student Introductions by Fri 9/9 at 11:59 pm
2	Thurs 9/8	Why This Course	Waldman Intro & Conclusion; Klaas, "America's Self-Obsession is Killing its Democracy"	Citizen Exam screenshot by Sun 9/11 at 1:59 pm
3	Tues 9/13	What Just Happened?	Waldman Ch 15; Homans, "How 'Stop the Steal' Captured the American Right"	Cit Def 1 by Wed 9/14 at 11:59 pm
4	Thurs 9/15	Democracy Imperiled	Waldman Ch 16; Draper, "The League of Dangerous Mapmakers;" Kaufman, "The Takeover"	Begin Bellamy, <i>Citizenship</i> for next Tuesday
Unit 2: American Citizenship				
5	Tues 9/20	Citizenship	Bellamy, <i>Citizenship</i> (entire)	Bellamy Response by Wed 9/21 at 11:59 pm
6	Thurs 9/22	Colonial Origins	Colonial Origins reading packet	Cit Def 2 by Sun 9/25 at 11:59 pm
7	Tues 9/27	Founding(s) Start of Campaign Watch	Waldman Ch 1-2; US Constitution	
8	Thurs 9/29	Women and Citizenship	Women and Citizenship readings	
9	Tues 10/4	Birthright Citizens	Waldman Ch 3-6	
10	Thurs 10/6	Offshore Americas	Reading: Overview; Love, "White is the Color of Empire" In-class viewing: <i>Insular Island</i>	CExam2 and Reflection by Sun 10/9 at 11:59 pm
11	Tues 10/11	Contested Citizenship	Kerber, "The Meanings of Citizenship"	Unit 2 Response by Wed 10/12 at 11:59 pm

#	DATE	TOPIC	WHAT TO READ / VIEW	WHAT'S DUE
Unit 3: The Right to Vote				
12	Thurs 10/13	"Purifying the Vote"	Waldman Ch 7; Lepore, "How We Used to Vote;" Wolfley, "Jim Crow, Indian Style"	Citizen Project Proposal by Sun 10/16 at 11:59 pm
13	Tues 10/18	Women's Suffrage, The Triumph Narrative	Waldman Ch 8	
14	Thurs 10/20	Alternative Perspectives on Women's Suffrage	Chambers et al, "Finish the Fight!" Jones, "Amendment;" Rouse, "The Very Queer History of the Suffrage Movement"	Rsch Conf w/ Dr. Hangen by Fri 10/21 at 5 pm
15	Tues 10/25	What War Does	Goldstein-Shirley, "Enemies in Their Own Land;" Keyssar, "The Right to Vote"	
16	Thurs 10/27	Civil Rights Movements	Waldman Ch 9-10	
17	Tues 11/1	Unfinished Business	Reading TBA	Cit Def 3 by Wed 11/2 at 11:59 pm
18	Thurs 11/3	Modern Fight to Vote End of Campaign Watch	Waldman Ch 11-13	Citizen Project Draft, Memo + Bibliography due Sun 11/6 at 11:59 pm
19	Tues 11/8	Election Day(s)	Waldman Ch 14-15	
20	Thurs 11/10	Election Debrief	Reading TBA	Election Response by Sun 11/13 at 11:59 pm
Unit 4: Belonging, Immigration, and Naturalization				
21	Tues 11/15	Petitioners at the Gates	Collins, "Alien v. FreeBorn;" Daniels, "No Lamps Were Lit for Them;"	
22	Thurs 11/17	Architecture of Race and Americanization	Ngai, "The Architecture of Race in American Immigration Law"	
23	Tues 11/22	Film Day: Citizen USA	<i>(no assigned reading)</i>	Citizen Project: Final due by Tues 11/22 at 11:59 pm

#	DATE	TOPIC	WHAT TO READ / VIEW	WHAT'S DUE
	Thurs 11/24	<i>Thanksgiving Break, no assigned work</i>		
24	Tues 11/29	Since 1965	Gjelten, "The Immigration Act that Inadvertently Changed America;" Bolter, Immigration Has Been a Defining, Often Contentious, Element in US History"	
25	Thurs 12/1	Borders and Documents	Vargas, "My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant;" Kobach, "Attrition Through Enforcement;" Bethea, "After ICE Came to Morton, Mississippi;" González, "Place-Making in the Transient..."	Cit Def 4 by Sun 12/4 at 11:59 pm
26	Tues 12/6	Immigration Today	Immigration Task Force, "Immigration 101: Path to Citizenship;" Frum, "America's Asylum System is Profoundly Broken;" Hilgers, "They Fled Danger for New York;" improvethe dream.org	
27	Thurs 12/8	Citizen Lightning Round	<i>No assigned reading</i>	Lightning Round Presentation due in class . Revisions and Citizen Project Abstract due by Fri 12/9 at 11:59 pm
OL	Thurs 12/15	12:30 pm Final Exam becomes available	Due by Fri 12/16 at 11:59 pm	

Bibliography and Resources

See Blackboard's **Information** section for a full bibliography of course readings and Further Readings list. Many of the recommendations are ideal starting points / background reading for your Citizen Project.