

LIB204: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

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Office hours: Wed. 1:30-3:30pm
C459--RR

ABOUT

The Gilder Lehrman Institute, one of the nation's leading history nonprofits, has been awarded a grant from the Annenberg Public Policy Center to develop digital civics learning guide for community college students on the following seven subjects: separation of powers, jury service, Bill of Rights, rule of law, Federalism, voting, and civil dialogue. Eminent scholars will be asked to write 400 to 500-word overviews of one of the above subjects and deliver a short video lecture. The learning guide will also offer guidance to students on how to conduct their own research on one of these subjects using primary and secondary sources and include a variety of ideas for how students might engage a wider audience of learners via a presentation. The Gilder Lehrman Institute plans to involve LaGuardia Community College professors in the development of the civics learning guide and engage them in a pilot project that would encourage LaGuardia Community College students to develop educational materials around a civic topic of their choosing and share these materials with a community group.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Build a thorough understanding of civic engagement through the study seven core concepts.
2. Develop research skills to locate appropriate primary and secondary sources to deepen knowledge of course concepts.
3. Evaluate educational methodologies, select and create materials appropriate for community college students.
4. Make connections between contemporary political structures and their historical roots.

COURSE VALUES

These are the values that inform how I plan this class. The better you understand these values, the more successful you will be this semester.

- **Accessibility:** I strive to make the class accessible to all, but I may miss things. Please be proactive in raising any needs you may have and I will do my best to meet them.
- **Agency:** You control how well you do in class. While I guide you through historical content and skill-building, your level of engagement with course policies and materials will determine how well you do in this class.
- **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is passing off the ideas of others as your own. I want to see how you are making sense of class materials, not the perfect answer to the questions I ask. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the assignment in question and may result in disciplinary action.
- **Activism:** Students often comment that history is depressing. It's true: the United States was established through colonization and built upon social inequality. My hope is that understanding this story will equip you to better understand and address inequality and injustice in your communities.
- **Appropriate Attitude:** I expect us to listen to one another, to challenge ideas rather than individuals, and to refrain from any harassment or discriminatory behaviors. I will try to include to appropriate content warnings and understand if you need to take a break from class while covering sensitive topics.

RESOURCES

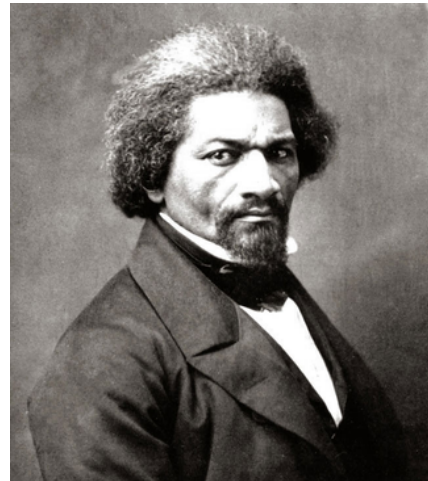
On Campus

Academic Advising
Health Services Center
LaGuardia CARES
The Wellness Center
Women's Center
LGBTQIA Safe Zone Hub
The Writing Center

In the Community

Coalition for the Homeless
COVID Resources
The GLBT Project
New York City Domestic
Violence Hotline
New York Immigration
Coalition
Safe Horizon

(Resources are hyperlinked
in the syllabus PDF.)



HERE TO HELP!

We are here to help you with this class as well as your academic journey at LaGuardia. Dr. Vojvodic is the Political Science Coordinator and Dr. Del Rio is the History Coordinator. Pop by for a visit and let us know how we can support you!

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

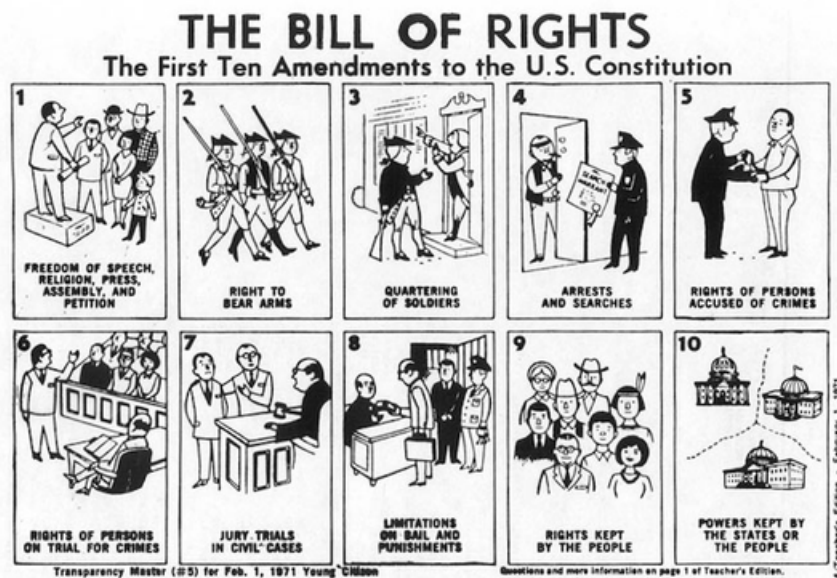
Meetings

During the first half of the semester, we will meet each week (Wednesdays, 10:30am-12:45pm) to explore topics related to civic engagement. Class preparation will include short assigned readings. Class meetings will include short lessons but will focus on discussion. This means that it is crucial that you attend class and participate regularly.

During the second half of the semester, you will take what you have learned to conduct additional research and create projects of your choosing. Depending on your projects, we may not meet each week during this time.

Assessment

Your final grade for the course will be determined by three components: class participation, research, and final projects. We will check in regularly throughout the semester to let you know how you are doing.



SCHEDULE

MARCH 8

Theme: Civil Dialogue

MARCH 15

Theme: Federalism

MARCH 22

Theme: Separation of Powers

MARCH 29

Theme: Bill of Rights

APRIL 5 & 12

Spring Break - no class!

APRIL 19

Theme: Jury System; Voting

APRIL 26

Theme: Rule of Law; Civil Dialogue (again)

MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & JUNE 7

Work on projects (meetings TBD)



For the first half of the semester we will meet each Wednesday in person. In the second half of the semester, we will determine when class meetings are needed to support you as you work on final projects.
