MAX 301: Ethics, Justice, and Citizenship

Course Summary
Max 301 is one-half of the required second-year curriculum for CCE. It examines theories and practices of democratic citizenship and civic engagement, including multiple ways of thinking about, and enacting, civic agency. Designed as a discussion-based seminar for between 12 and 17 second-year undergraduate majors each semester, the course begins with a review of major theories of democracy and citizenship. Then, it examines how conservative, liberal, radical left, and far right approaches to civic engagement differentially activate values, the analysis of social facts, and forms of collective action. The course concludes by questioning the contested comingling of these civic engagement forms on college campuses, as reflected in debates over controversial guest speakers. Students thus discuss and form conclusions regarding the ways in which differing values, and different kinds of knowledge, shape the practices of collective action through which citizens “co-create” society and shape the future.

Course Goals (Content, Conceptual, Civic)
After taking this course, students will be able to:

• Understand and evaluate different theoretical and historical approaches to questions of citizenship and civic engagement;
• Think more clearly and explicitly about:
  1) how democratic citizenship involves the “co-creation” of society,
  2) how different sets of values and different analyses of social facts can lead to different forms of civic engagement and political action;
• Use these understandings to write well-argued analytical essays on civic, political, and global issues of citizenship and civic engagement;
• Think more clearly and explicitly about the values, and the analysis of social facts, that underlies their own practices of, and plans for, civic engagement, both on campus and off.

Course Assignments
• Reading assignments for twice-weekly seminar meeting discussions.
• Three short paper assignments scheduled intermittently throughout the course.

Course Assessment

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay I</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay II</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay III (due during Finals Week)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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See the course syllabus for specific grading criteria.