

# CITIZEN NATION

Contested history and meanings of U.S. citizenship, now and in the past

## Course Basics

Class meets in person in Sullivan 320.

Mon / Wed 2 - 3:15 pm.

## Instructor Info

Instructor: Dr. Tona Hangen

Office: Sullivan 327-D, x8688

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Voicemail / text: 617-506-9440

## Required Books

Please purchase or rent:

Richard Bellamy, *Citizenship: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford Univ Press, 2008) ISBN: 978-019-2802538 [available as free 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 [There is 1 copy on library course reserve]

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



## 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? At the time of the nation's founding, 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. Citizen Nation is taught at Worcester State every election year fall.





## Student Learning Outcomes

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, such as 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.

## Course Design and Policies

As a 300-level course with LASC designations, Citizen Nation is designed to be challenging, even for advanced and Honors students. But it's also intended to be widely relevant. A main goal of the course is to better appreciate the meaning of American citizenship in the history of our nation in and in your own life. 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. We achieve that goal through reading / viewing course material, class discussion, research, active and collaborative learning, and a semester-long class project to improve relevant Wikipedia content.

**Communication:** For general course questions, use the Blackboard Help Forum, since other learners will undoubtedly benefit from your question or can help provide an answer. For questions that need one-on-one resolution, use WSU email, visit my office hours, or text / voicemail to 617-506-9440. During the week I try to respond same day during business hours; on evenings or weekends please be patient, as it may take me longer to respond. See Instructor Info on Blackboard for how to set up an office hours appointment.



### *Course Policies*

***In the Classroom:*** Devices (laptop, tablet, phone) are welcome in class as long as you are using them to stay on task. Misuse of campus-provided internet access during class is a distraction to your learning and a disruption of our collective learning environment. Please silence cell phones before you enter class and refrain from texting or social media use during class time.

***Technology Skills and Access:*** 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 to be able to complete the Wikipedia project. 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.

***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. In particular, it is a violation of the student code of conduct and the Wikipedia terms of use to generate the text of your course assignments with AI. When and where you employ the work of others, do so responsibly and cite your sources using a standard academic citation format or the required Wikipedia format, where applicable. Plagiarized work or exam cheating is an automatic zero on the assignment and may cause you to fail the course. Academic integrity 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. Accommodations requested through Student Accessibility Services will be honored. If applicable to you, please present SAS documentation as soon as possible so we can design a plan to help you be successful. If you see ways the course can be more inclusive, please let me know.

### **Voting in MA 2024**

State Primary: Sept 3

Early Voting: October 19 - November 1

Deadline to register to vote in the November election: October 26

Vote by Mail Application Deadline: October 29

Election Day: November 5

Polling Hours: 7 am - 8 pm

Voter Information: <https://www.vote411.org/massachusetts> or [mass.gov/topics/voting](https://mass.gov/topics/voting)



## Grading Scale

### 125 points possible

118 - 125	A
113 - 117	A -
109-112	B+
105 - 108	B
100 - 104	B -
97- 99	C+
93 - 96	C
88 - 92	C -
84 - 87	D+
80 - 83	D
75- 79	D -
Below 75	E

## Grade Breakdown

40%	Wiki Project	50 points
32%	Active Presence	40 pts
20%	Weekly Journals	25 pts
8%	Citizenship Exam	10 pts
<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>125 points</b>

# Course Requirements

## *Prepared Preparation (aka Active Presence)*

This is not a lecture class. You learn by doing, especially through discussion. Seminar-style learning involves EVERYONE. Each person’s regular and enthusiastic attendance makes all the difference in the quality of our learning community and the depth of your individual learning. For this class, “active presence” means: you are in class, you are following along with the syllabus and staying up to date on any course updates from Blackboard, and you’ve put in serious work with the assigned reading ahead of time (i.e. reviewed previous class notes, taken your own notes, defined any unfamiliar terms, written or responded to discussion questions, thought critically about it, marked passages you want to talk about or that puzzle you, and noted important points). You cannot earn full credit by just being a silent presence in the room: you have to speak up / write / be involved. Active presence is about a third of your course grade, evaluated by attendance, instructor observation, in-class writings and a self-assessment.

## *Wiki Project*

The largest part of your grade is a semester-long, multi-part collaborative research project. It’s important to stay on track with the project deadlines, which are clearly outlined in the syllabus and in the project guideline document. You will succeed if you stick to the schedule, if nothing else! Don’t let yourself get behind. If you get stuck, reach out for help.

Parts of the project (see guidelines document for details) include: training, responding to weekly journal prompts, article selection, research bibliography, draft and peer review, finalized public Wikipedia editing, and post-project reflection.

## *Citizenship Exam*

Near the end of the semester, you will study for and take the same civics / history exam that is taken by those being naturalized as American citizens.

## *Extra Credit*

There may be possibilities for extra credit; stay tuned. In past semesters, students have been able to volunteer at a local citizenship naturalization ceremony or earn extra credit for participating in election-related activities like voter registration drives.

*Course Schedule and Project Deadlines*

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

WEEK	DATE	PLANS FOR THE DAY	WIKI PROJECT	DEADLINES
<b>Unit 1</b>		<b>What's at Stake</b>		
<b>1</b>	Wed Sept 4	Course Intro and Welcome	Create your W account	
<b>2</b>	Mon Sept 9	What Just Happened?	Read W student handbook, complete training	
	Wed Sept 11	Democracy Moment Reading: Waldman FV Intro, and pp 253-304 (Ch 15-End)		Sun Sept 15: Journal 1
<b>3</b>	Mon Sept 16	Defining "Constitutional" Reading: US Constitution	Learn to evaluate and edit Wikipedia	
	Tues Sept 17	<i>Constitution Day</i>		
	Wed Sept 18	Citizenship: Read all of Bellamy	Sources, Avoiding Plagiarism	Sun Sept 22: Journal 2
<b>Unit 2</b>		<b>American Citizenship</b>		
<b>4</b>	Mon Sept 23	Colonial Origins. Reading: Colonial Packet in Reader	Choose Your Article	
	Wed Sept 25	Founding(s) Reading: Waldman FV Ch 2-3	Read relevant guides	Sun Sept 29: Journal 3
<b>5</b>	Mon Sept 30	Women and Citizenship Reading: Declaration of Sentiments + Waldman FV Ch 4	Make an edit	
	Wed Oct 2	Birthright Citizens Reading: Jackson, Waldman FV Ch 5-6	Research, Locating Sources	Sun Oct 6: Journal 4
<b>6</b>	Mon Oct 7	Offshore Americas	Contribution drafting	
	Wed Oct 9	Film: The Insular Empire	Everyone should be writing	Sun Oct 13: Journal 5
<b>7</b>	<b>Mon Oct 14 - University Holiday, No Class</b>			
	Wed Oct 16	Native American Citizenship Reading: Richardson	Peer Review	Sun Oct 20: Journal 6

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WEEK	DATE	PLANS FOR THE DAY	WIKI PROJECT	DEADLINES
<b>Unit 3</b>		<b>The Right to Vote</b>		
<b>8</b>	Mon Oct 21	Contested Citizenship Reading: Kerber	Move work into mainspace Wikipedia	
	Wed Oct 23	Revisiting Voting Reading: Lepore, MarshallProj	Respond to feedback	Sun Oct 27: Journal 7
	<i>Sat Oct 26</i>	<i>MA Voter Registration Deadline</i>		
<b>9</b>	Mon Oct 28	Women’s Suffrage Reading: Suffrage Packet + Waldman FV Ch 7-8	Improve and revise your work	
	Wed Oct 30	Civil Rights Movement and the Voting Rights Act Reading: Waldman FV Ch 9-10		Sun Nov 3: Journal 8
<b>10</b>	Mon Nov 4	Rise and Fall of the VRA Reading: Waldman FV Ch 11-12 Film Viewing: Rigged		
	<i>Tues Nov 5</i>	<i>Election Day</i>		
	Wed Nov 6	Election Debrief		Sun Nov 10: Journal 9
<b>11</b>	<b>Mon Nov 11 - University Holiday, No Class</b>			
<b>Unit 4</b>		<b>Belonging, Immigration, and Naturalization</b>		
	Wed Nov 13	Architecture of Race and Americanization. Reading: Ngai	Tie up loose ends	Sun Nov 17: Journal 10
<b>12</b>	Mon Nov 18	Since 1965. Reading: Gjelten, Bolter	Finalize your project	
	Wed Nov 20	The Immigration / Naturalization System. Guest Speaker: TBA	Begin studying for Citizenship Exam	Sun Nov 24: Reflection J11
<b>13</b>	Mon Nov 25	Presentation Day / Film Day	Present your work	
	<b>Wed-Fri Nov 27-29 Thanksgiving Break</b>			
<b>14</b>	Mon Dec 2	Borders and Documents Reading: Frum, Kobach		
	Wed Dec 4	CE Test / Course Wrap-up Reading: Waldman FV Ch 13-14		Citizenship Exam