

**Common Course
A&S Core Curriculum**

- I. Course Title: Civic Engagement Seminar
- II. Credit Hours: 1
- III. Course Level: 3000
- IV. Department or Departments responsible for teaching course: Any department
- V. Description: Working with the appropriate department, students will learn about and become actively involved in civic enterprises by volunteering their services within the greater Waco community (or other areas, if taken during the summer) in a variety of ways; for example, volunteering at a soup kitchen, translating various services for non-English-speaking people, working at a local non-profit agency, volunteering at a local animal shelter or rescue, participating in an art-related activity, etc. This course will not only provide students with vital skills, but also will enhance moral, intellectual, and spiritual values that they will draw upon during their professional lives.
- VI. Core Curriculum Objectives:
 1. Through their civic engagement activities students will obtain valuable academic experience, as well as skills essential for personal and professional life beyond Baylor.
 2. Through exposure to everyday, diverse peoples that have different perspectives and life experiences, students will be inspired to develop moral, intellectual and spiritual values, along with humility and patience.
 3. Students will develop informed, constructive habits and knowledge to better understand and address our increasingly complex social, environmental, political, and economic world.
 4. Students will become part of a larger, integrated body of work, where they will actively contribute to the success of their chosen field of civic engagement.
- VII. Justification: This course will specifically and uniquely fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Vision:
 - a. Part I. Preamble:
 - i. This course in civic engagement “supports and builds upon the General Education Outcomes – clear communication, critical thinking, **civic responsibility**, and Christian perspective – expected of all graduates of Baylor University.”
 - b. Part II. Vision Statement for the Core Curriculum:

- i. This course provides experiential learning opportunities as follows:
“[d]eveloping various skills necessary for the completion of an academic degree, but [that are] also **essential for personal and professional life beyond Baylor.**”
- ii. Participating in activities that improve the lives of people and their environment will “**[i]nspire moral, intellectual and spiritual values.**”
- iii. Students involved in food gardens, animal rescue operations, environmental clean-up or protection activities, etc. will gain “knowledge of their participation in natural systems [that] will provide students with **a rich awareness of the interdependence of all physical systems** while the skills acquired in their examination will enable students to cultivate responsible habits in the pursuit of a healthy life.”
- iv. Working in the community alongside people who have different viewpoints, perspectives, and life experiences will allow students to “learn how great thinkers have struggled with – and continue to struggle with – **challenging and sometimes divisive philosophical and scientific problems.** Students will develop the skill of critical reasoning . . . including problem-solving In doing so, [this course] **will encourage students to cultivate patience and intellectual humility** in the search for truth.”
- v. As citizens of local, national, and global communities, **students must be equipped for informed and constructive civic engagement.** [This course] will **empower students to engage with current social and political issues intelligently.** “It will **teach students to communicate effectively** through . . . open and mutually-respectful debate They will also **gain a deeper understanding of and empathy for people from other societies, races, genders, ethnicities, and socio-economic statuses.**” Students will be able to **articulate and practice compassion and justice** in the pursuit of peace.”
- vi. Through taking this course, students may “**generate original artistic and literary work that will shape the world around them even as they themselves are being formed and influenced.** Students who participate in arts-related civic endeavors will experience “**meaningful experiences . . . such as the opportunity to appreciate, perform, or create** works of art, theater, music and literature . . . [and will be] encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity across all disciplines in the pursuit of beauty.”