

# PSCI 496 – Civic Engagement in Political Science

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## Course Deliverables

- Weekly Reflections
- Proposal (20%)
- Interim report
- Final Project (50%)
- Self-assessment (30%)
- (including reflections, Interim Report and Final Reflective report)

**Course size:** 10

**Credit:** Numeric Grade

In PSCI 496 Civic Engagement students will learn how politics is integrated in our daily lives by engaging with our community through a 40-hour placement as a volunteer or a paid employee (you must be enrolled in this course in the same semester as your placement).

Civic engagement involves voluntary participation in a community activity that contributes to a public concern. For example, students may work at for a non-profit organization, or participate in an electoral campaign or intern at their local MPs office.

During the course of the semester, students will reflect on their civic engagement experience and demonstrate independent skills-based learning. In addition, students will share their experience by completing a final project that bridges their civic engagement experience and political science learning in the classroom. The final project can be, but is not limited to a standard written report. We encourage students to work on a creative final output such as a blog, website, video, podcast, poster board etc.

# PSCI 496 – Assessment Scale

Grade	Descriptor
90-100% 27 to 30 points	<p><b>Exceptional evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> Consistently exceptional, the work is essentially flawless. It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Insight/Understanding that is:</b> highly perceptive, thought-provoking, in-depth and/or creative</li> <li>● <b>Thinking that is:</b> highly critical, analytical, reflective and well considered</li> <li>● <b>Structure that is:</b> tightly focused and precise with a highly logical, well-reasoned and clearly balanced development of arguments</li> </ul>
80-89% 24-26 points	<p><b>Outstanding evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> Consistently outstanding, with very few weaknesses. It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Insight/Understanding that is:</b> highly perceptive, thought-provoking, in-depth and/or creative</li> <li>● <b>Thinking that is:</b> highly critical, analytical, reflective and well considered</li> <li>● <b>Structure that is:</b> tightly focused and precise with a highly logical, well-reasoned and clearly balanced development of arguments</li> </ul>
70-79% 21-23 points	<p><b>Excellent evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> Consistently excellent, with few weaknesses. It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Insight/Understanding that is:</b> perceptive, thought-provoking, in-depth and/or creative</li> <li>● <b>Thinking that is:</b> critical, analytical, reflective and well considered</li> <li>● <b>Structure that is:</b> focused and precise with a very logical, well-reasoned and clearly balanced development of arguments</li> </ul>
60-69% 18-20 points	<p><b>Very good evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> Very good in most respects, the work displays comprehensive achievement of the relevant learning outcome. It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Insight/Understanding that is:</b> complete and comprehensive</li> <li>● <b>Thinking that is:</b> a very good synthesis, critical analysis, reflection and evaluation</li> <li>● <b>Structure that is:</b> mostly clear, well-structured and logical, with reasoned arguments</li> </ul>
50-59% 15-17 points	<p><b>Good evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> The work is good and clearly meets requirements for demonstrating the relevant learning outcome. It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Insight/Understanding that is:</b> average or variable, in some areas complete and comprehensive and in others limited and basic.</li> <li>● <b>Thinking that is:</b> a limited / partial critical analysis, synthesis, reflection and evaluation</li> </ul>

# PSCI 496 – Final Report Rubric

Evaluation Category	Attributes
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Organization (30 points)</b></p>	<p>The pattern of organization is appropriate for the topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronological</li> <li>• Spatial</li> <li>• Topical</li> <li>• Causal</li> <li>• Pro/Con</li> <li>• Problem/cause/solution</li> </ul>
	<p>Information presented is logically coherent</p>
	<p>Presentation is well-researched and referenced appropriately</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Content (45 points)</b></p>	<p>Content is creatively articulated and presented</p>
	<p>Integration of coursework with the experience of doing research</p>
	<p>Demonstrates critical thinking</p>
	<p>Material included is relevant to the overall message/purpose that is it should advance the reader's understanding of the topic</p>
	<p>Appropriate amount of material is prepared, and points made reflect well their relative importance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Presentation (25 points)</b></p>	<p>Properly formatted. Pay attention to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margins</li> <li>• Font size</li> <li>• Placement of graphics</li> <li>• Planning and attention to detail</li> </ul>
	<p>Properly edited, free of spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors.</p>
	<p>Visual aids are well prepared, informative, effective, and not distracting</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Structure that is:</b> average or variable in its clarity and logic but provides a partially-reasoned argument</li> </ul>
40-49% 12-14 points	<p><b>Some evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> The work meets minimum requirements for demonstrating the relevant learning outcome. It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Insight/Understanding that is:</b> basic or limited, lacking detail, elaboration or explanation</li> <li>• <b>Thinking that is:</b> highly descriptive with no real / limited / superficial synthesis, critical analysis or reflection</li> <li>• <b>Structure that is:</b> not logical, is unclear, vague, imprecise, and ambiguous, providing a weak argument based on mostly unsubstantiated statements</li> </ul>
30-39% 9-11 points	<p><b>Limited evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> work fails to meet minimum requirements for demonstrating the relevant learning outcome. It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Insight/Understanding that is:</b> minimal, cursory or very limited</li> <li>• <b>Thinking that is:</b> almost entirely descriptive rather than analytical or reflective</li> <li>• <b>Structure that is:</b> poor, with poorly developed or incoherent argument, or no argument at all</li> </ul>
20-29% 6-8 points	<p><b>Very limited evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> The work is very weak or shows a decided lack of effort. It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Insight/Understanding that is that is:</b> negligible, illustrating no knowledge, understanding or coherent discussion of the area in question</li> <li>• <b>Thinking that is:</b> incomplete, muddled, and/or providing irrelevant material</li> <li>• <b>Structure that is:</b> negligible with incomplete or inadequately presented references, if any</li> </ul>
10-19% 3-5 points	<p><b>No evidence of the Learning Outcome:</b> Extremely weak. It does not address the area in question.</p>
0-9% 1-3 points	<p>0 = No submission to evidence the learning outcome. Up to 9 = The work is of very little consequence, if any, to the area in question. It is incomplete in every respect.</p>

# PSCI 496 – Student Self Assessment

**For Students:** Having completed your Final Reflective Report you are now ready to complete your Self-Assessment. You should self-assess your course by grading each Learning Outcome separately against the assessment criteria provided in the course proposal and the self-assessment rubric.

In addition, you must provide an explanation, justifying why you gave yourself these particular grades, for each of the specific Learning Outcomes. You should also indicate where in your collection of evidence you believe you have demonstrated this level of achievement for each Learning Outcome.

1= range from 3-5 points ( 10- 19%)

2= range from 6-8 points (20-29%)

3= range from 9-11 points (30- 39%)

4= range from 12-14 points (40- 49%)

5= range from 15- 17 points (50- 59%)

6= range from 18-20 points (60-69%)

7= range from 21-23 points (70- 79%)

8= range from 24-26 points (80- 89%)

9= range from 27-30 points (90-100%)

No evidence of Learning Outcomes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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Exceptional Evidence of Learning Outcome

**Justify your rating (100 words)**

(Reference specific entries in your Reflective Blog that provide evidence to support your rating)