

## **CIVIC STUDIES MINOR – THEMATIC PATHWAYS**

Core requirement (3 credits)

Students complete one of the following foundational courses:

- HONR 390 – Citizenship, Community, and Leadership
- POLS 300 – Living Democracy
- CVIC 200 – Introduction to Civic Studies and Democratic Engagement

*In exceptional cases, with the approval of the Civic Studies Director, another foundational course (for example, EDEL 100, EDST 100, or RELS 110) may substitute for the core, provided the student completes a Civic Studies framing assignment or module.*

**Electives (15 credits):** Students complete 15 hours of approved Civic Studies electives. They may choose any combination from the approved list, or organize their coursework within one of the thematic pathways below.

**Capstone:** Students complete a Civic Studies capstone paper or project connected to one of their minor courses (core or elective), demonstrating integrative learning and applied democratic engagement.

### **THEMATIC PATHWAYS**

Students are not required to declare a pathway. These are advising tools to help students and faculty build coherent, purpose-driven programs of study.

#### **Civic Leadership & Public Problem-Solving**

*Who this pathway serves:* Political Science, Public Affairs, Business, Management, Organizational Communication, Social Work, Nonprofit/Philanthropy, and students preparing for leadership roles in organizations and communities.

**Required core (3 credits), One of the following:** HONR 390, POLS 300, or CVIC 200.

**Recommended electives (select 15 credits from courses such as)**

EDHI 102 – Introduction to Students as Leaders  
COMM 310 – Communicating Democracy  
POLS 130 – American National Government  
POLS 337 – State and Local Politics  
PLAN 430 – Housing and Community Development  
EDST 100 – Introduction to Education Systems and Policy  
PHIL 202 – Ethics

#### **Law, Justice & Public Safety**

Who this pathway serves

Criminal Justice and Criminology, Pre-Law, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, Philosophy, Political Science, and students interested in courts, policing, human rights, and public safety.

Required core (3 credits)

One of the following: HONR 390, POLS 300, or CVIC 200.

**Recommended electives (select 15 credits from courses such as)**

POLS 140 – Introduction to Law

CJC 211 – Race, Gender, and Justice

CJC 229 – Decision-Making and Ethics in Criminal Justice

CJC 333 – Policing in a Free and Diverse Society

POLS 491 – Political Violence and Human Rights

PHIL 203 – Social Philosophy

POLS 270 – Political Theory

**Media, Communication & Democracy**

***Who this pathway serves:*** Journalism, Media and Telecommunications, Communication Studies, Public Relations, Marketing, English, Political Science, and students interested in public opinion and political communication.

**Required core (3 credits)**

One of the following: HONR 390, POLS 300, or CVIC 200.

**Recommended electives (select 15 credits from courses such as)**

JOUR 101 – Media and Society

COMM 310 – Communicating Democracy

COMM 322 – Communication and Popular Culture

COMM 404 – Political Communication

POLS 375 – Media and Politics

GEOG 121 – Geography, Culture, and Diversity

PHIL 240 – Society, Discipline, and Control

**Note:** Focuses on how communication shapes civic identities, participation, and democratic debate. Ideal for students who want to work at the intersection of media and public life.

**Education, Equal Opportunity & Democracy**

***Who this pathway serves:***

Elementary and Secondary Education, Social Studies Education, Special Education, Educational Studies, Sociology, History, and students interested in educational policy, curriculum, and youth development.

Required core (3 credits)

One of the following: HONR 390, POLS 300, or CVIC 200.

(Students in this pathway are strongly encouraged to take EDEL 100 or EDST 100 as part of their plan, and, when appropriate, as an approved core substitute.)

**Recommended electives (select 15 credits from courses such as)**

EDEL 100 – Education in a Democratic Society

EDST 100 – Introduction to Education Systems and Policy

EDFO 420 – Social, Historical, and Philosophical Foundations of Education

EDTE 370 – Technology Policy and Ethics

HIST 202 – United States History, 1877 to the Present

HIST 215 – Women in American History

SOC 235 – Sociology of Gender

PHIL 215 – Philosophy of Race

**Advising note:** Highlights the role of schools and educators in sustaining democracy, advancing equity, and preparing young people for civic life. Valuable for future teachers and for students interested in education policy or community-based education work.

## **Environment, Place & Civic Futures**

**Who this pathway serves:** Natural Resources and Environmental Management, Geography, Urban Planning, Architecture/Planning, Sustainability, Economics, and students interested in place-making, environmental justice, and community development.

Required core (3 credits)

One of the following: HONR 390, POLS 300, or CVIC 200.

**Recommended electives (select 15 credits from courses such as)**

NREM 371 – Outdoor Recreation and Society

NREM 390 – Honors Colloquium in Natural Resources

GEOG 121 – Geography, Culture, and Diversity

GEOG 434 – Maps, Environment, and Society

PHIL 230 – Environmental Ethics

PLAN 430 – Housing and Community Development

ECON 310 – American Economic History and Development

**Note:** Connects environmental issues, land use, and spatial justice to questions of democracy, participation, and community resilience.

## **Pluralism, Religion & Civic Identity**

**Who this pathway serves:** Religious Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, History, Women's and Gender Studies, Political Science, and students interested in interfaith work, identity, diversity, and pluralism in democracy.

**Required Core (3 credits), one of the following:** HONR 390, POLS 300, or CVIC 200.

(Students in this pathway are strong candidates for the foundational-course exception using RELS 110 or EDST 100, with the required Civic Studies framing assignment.)

**Recommended electives (select 15 credits from courses such as)**

RELS 110 – World Religions  
RELS 111 – Religion at Work  
RELS 285 – American Religious Diversity  
PHIL 215 – Philosophy of Race  
SOC 235 – Sociology of Gender  
POLS 474 – Women and Politics  
HIST 413 – Post–World War II America  
PHIL 202 – Ethics

**Note:** Explores how religious traditions, race, gender, and memory shape civic identities, conflict, cooperation, and the pursuit of justice in diverse democracies.