

Political Science 291  
Professor Lee Benson  
Dean Michael Delli Carpini  
Professor Ira Harkavy  
Professor William Harris, II  
Professor Matthew Hartley  
Professor Rogers Smith  
Professor Henry Teune

Spring 2004  
Tuesdays, 2-5pm

Faculty-Student Collaborative Seminar in  
Citizenship and Democratic Development  
Of Penn Undergraduates

For several decades, universities and colleges have been studying their impact on the development of undergraduates in respect to a variety of characteristics and achievements. To our knowledge, however, no systematic study has yet been made of how, and the extent to which, colleges influence the democratic development of their students, despite mission statements in college catalogs which almost invariably claim to develop “responsible democratic citizens.” To remedy that neglect, Political Science 291 has been created.

PS 291 will function as an idea generating, research-focused, seminar which uses Penn as a case study to assess the contributions universities and colleges now make to democratic education and democratic political development. It is an interdisciplinary seminar with participation of faculty from across the university including political science, history, communications, sociology and education. The seminar aims to develop good answers to three critically-important questions:

1. How should we define the complex concepts “democratic students” and “democratic citizens?”
2. As undergraduate education now is conducted, does four years at Penn significantly increase the inclination and ability of students to function as lifelong, responsible, active, effective, democratic citizens?
3. What changes in undergraduate education could Penn make to increase the positive impact it has on the democratic development of its students?

To help answer those questions, students will collaboratively design and conduct research experiments. The main written assignment will be an evaluation of research instruments collaboratively established and created by members of the seminar.

Similar seminars are being developed in a variety of universities and colleges in the United States and in other countries. The results of the different seminars will be exchanged, critically evaluated, and perhaps used to generate a basic research instrument which could be appropriately adapted for different colleges and universities in different countries and coordinated by the international consortium of universities headquartered at Penn conducting a global research program on Universities as Sites of Citizenship.

Admission to the seminar will be limited and students who believe that they can contribute to its work and might benefit from participating in it are invited to apply for admission. Requests for admission should be mailed to: Professor Henry Teune, Undergraduate Chair, Political Science at [hteune@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:hteune@sas.upenn.edu). Requests for admission should contain a brief statement of why students are interested in the seminar and their possible contributions to its work.