

**BSCV 181: THE CIVICUS STUDENT AND
THE UNIVERSITY**

FALL 2022

0101

MONDAYS

2:00--3:45PM

0201

MONDAYS

4:00--5:45PM

SOMERSET HALL



CIVICUS



CIVICUS

LIVING AND LEARNING PROGRAM

INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Korey Rothman, (she/her/hers)

Director, CIVICUS

krothman@umd.edu

0107 Somerset Hall

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays,

10:00AM – 11:00AM

and by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Jules Dugan (she/her/hers)

jdugan24@terpmail.umd.edu

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment

RESOURCES

READINGS

All readings will be posted on ELMS.

Assignments may be accessed online; text, audio, or video-based assignments should be viewed or listened to prior to class. You will not need to purchase a textbook for this class.

CLASS ZOOM

<https://umd.zoom.us/j/95800318454>

(in the event of an online class session)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

BSCV181 is a one-credit seminar class for first-year CIVICUS students. The course is designed to help students answer the questions, "How can I get the most out of my time at University of Maryland?" and "What are my goals for my education at the University of Maryland?"

By the end of the semester, students will:

- Be familiar with campus resources that are related to their educational path and personal interests.
- Reflect on their personal goals for their time at the University of Maryland.
- Reflect on the connection between the University of Maryland and CIVICUS.
- Engage in critical reflection, through both writing and discussion.

Course Policies

Participation

Participation: As this is a discussion-based class, regular and respectful contribution to our ongoing exploration is crucial. You should come to class prepared to offer thoughtful comments about the material. If you are shy or have difficulty talking in class, please see me to discuss ways I can help you. Participation points will be given in every class session. Students arriving late or leaving will not receive full participation points for the day. Students with excused absences* can complete a two-page reflection on the topic of the day to make up the participation points they missed in their absence

***Excused Absences:** Excused absences from class include religious holidays (the student must provide notification within the first three weeks of class regarding any religious observance absence(s) for the entire semester), a death in the family, mandatory military service, court dates (an official notice from the court must be submitted), or participation in university activities at the written request of university authorities. For absences due to illness or the illness of a dependent, including COVID-related illnesses, you may submit a self-certified note that includes a statement about the illness and acknowledges the information is true and correct under the Code of Student Conduct. You can follow the template available on ELMS. The self-signed note must be submitted before the start of class in order to be considered.

Unexcused Absences: Absences stemming from work duties other than a military obligation (e.g., unexpected changes in shift assignments), service activities, and traffic/transit problems do not qualify as excused absences.

Technology Use: To help facilitate learning, cell phones, smartwatches, laptops, tablets, etc., may only be used at designated times for purposes specific to class. If you have an extenuating circumstance that requires you to use technology during the semester or during a specific class, let me know before class. Unless the technology use is approved by me, you will lose five participation points for the day.

A Community of Civility: One of the most important goals is to create an environment where students can talk openly while also listening carefully to the views and experiences of others. I encourage you to confidently exercise your right to free speech—but, keep in mind, that free speech has its limit and hate speech and harassment will not be tolerated. It is against UMD's and the course's policy to use language, including non-verbal language, that is disrespectful to people based on any aspect of their self or identity, including religious beliefs, age, race, ethnicity, sex, color, country of birth, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, personal appearance, physical or mental disability, genetic information, or political affiliation. Students who are disrespectful will be asked to leave class and it will be treated as an unexcused absence. Students may also be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and lose their opportunity for a CIVICUS citation. Please alert me immediately if you feel threatened or silenced at any point during our semester together or if your engagement in discussion has been in some way hindered.

Pronouns and Self-Identification: We are committed to fostering an inclusive classroom environment. I invite you, if you wish, to tell me how you want to be referred to both in terms of name and pronouns. Additionally, it is your choice to disclose identity in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity. Identity should be self-identified and not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to you as you self-identify, and I ask you to do the same for your fellow Terps.

COVID -19: Please be flexible, as issues around the pandemic may create changes in class schedule or format. I will do my best to notify you of any alterations as quickly as possible. Students must follow all UMD guidelines and safety precautions related to COVID as outlined on the 4Maryland page. Students who violate UMD Guidelines will receive a first warning. After that they may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Eating: Please refrain from eating in class. If you have a condition or circumstance and must eat, please speak to me before class begins.

Zoom: In the event class is on zoom, your camera must be turned on and your face visible - if I cannot see you, I will assume you are absent. If you have a reason you cannot turn on your camera on a specific day or if you are having trouble with technology let me know BEFORE class begins.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Submissions: Assignments must be either in hard copy or over ELMS (as the assignment description states) before the beginning of class. For every hour that an assignment is late, I will deduct 5% of the total possible assignment grade. If you have an issue that is making an on-time submission challenging, reach out to me BEFORE the assignment is due so we can discuss the situation.

Format and Editing: All assignments must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one-inch margins, and free of errors. Please consult the “Guide to Common Writing Errors” available on ELMS. You will be graded on both the content of your ideas and the clarity and accuracy of your writing, so I suggest you visit the Writing Center on campus before turning in your papers.

Citations: All information used in your papers must be fully and accurately cited using guidelines. If you have concerns about your understanding of proper citations, please see me or visit the Writing Center.

Academic Integrity: The University’s Code of Academic Integrity is designed to ensure that the principles of academic honesty and integrity are upheld. Please ensure that you fully understand this code and its implications because acts of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this code. Students may use a variety of online or virtual forums for course-wide discussion (e.g., GroupMe or WeChat). Collaboration regarding concepts discussed in this course is permissible. However, collaboration on graded assignments is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Examples of prohibited collaboration include: asking classmates for answers on quizzes or exams, sharing quiz questions with others, etc. If you are ever unclear about acceptable levels of collaboration, please speak to me before you collaborate.

Grading Disputes: If you wish to challenge a grade, you must present the graded assignment and at least one paragraph explaining why the grade should be changed (including any supporting evidence) to me in writing no later than one week after the grade is received.

Emails to Students: I will use ELMS and email to convey important information. You are responsible for keeping your email address up-to-date and ensuring that forwarding to another address functions properly. Failure to check email, errors in forwarding, and returned email do not constitute an excuse for missing announcements or deadlines.

Emails to Course Professors: Email correspondence with your professors is a form of professional communication. Please see the “Guide to Emailing Professors” on ELMS and, before emailing, please consult your notes, ELMS, and your syllabus to ensure your question has not already been answered. Also, please note that I do not always check email on the weekends or in the evenings.

UMD Policies and Resources.

For UMD's policy on Academic Integrity, Code of Student Conduct, Accessibility and Accommodations, Grades and Appeals, Copyright Infringement, and Sexual Misconduct visit

<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

More detailed descriptions about UMD resources, including Accessibility and Disability Service, mental health services, student academic services, and support for basic needs can be found on the course ELMS page.

An Important Note

I KNOW THAT STRESS, ANXIETY, AND LIFE EVENTS MAY CREATE CHALLENGES THAT IMPACT YOUR ABILITY TO MEET COURSE EXPECTATIONS. I WANT TO SUPPORT YOU. TO DO THIS, I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT A PROBLEM WHEN IT BEGINS AND NOT AFTER IT HAS ALREADY IMPACTED YOUR PROGRESS IN THE CLASS. IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING, PLEASE EMAIL US AND I CAN SCHEDULE A TIME TO TALK AND HELP YOU FIND SUPPORT AND RESOURCES.



Course Requirements

more details on assignments will be available on ELMS

Quizzes: Throughout the semester there will be eleven quizzes -- some scheduled and some pop. There may be short reflections or activities that serve as quizzes. These are designed to encourage you to stay attentive in class and up-to-date with the assignments and will cover readings, viewings, material from class lectures, guest speakers, discussions, and presentations given by classmates. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. If you miss a quiz because of an unexcused absence, it cannot be made up, but you can use it as your dropped quiz. Quizzes can be given at any time during the class, and if you miss because of lateness or leaving class early, you will not be able to make the quiz up.

Campus Scavenger Hunt: You will learn more about UMD by exploring notable sites on campus.

First Impressions Reflection: In a two-page paper you will reflect on your transition to college and your goals for your time at UMD.

First Look Fair Activity: You will explore a range of different activities and resources at UMD and share your discoveries with the class.

Professor Interview: You will conduct a ten minute interview with one of your professors and write a short reflection on the experience.

Mid-Semester Check In: You will schedule a ten minute meeting with me to chat about your first year experience and your goals for your time at UMD.

Letter to Your Future Self: You will reflect on your first semester experience in a letter that will be sent to you at a future date.

Final Project: You will work in a group to become an expert on a campus organization or resource, and share that resource with fellow students.

Extra Credit: You can earn up to ten extra credit points. Opportunities will be announced in class and on elms so please take advantage throughout the semester. If you would like to propose an event not listed in class, please contact me no less than 72 hours in advance for approval. Discretionary extra credit points may be awarded at my discretion for exceptional contributions to class.

Grade Breakdown



GRADE BREAKDOWN: 500 POINT SCALE

Campus Scavenger Hunt	25pts
First Impression Reflection	30pts
First Look Fair Activity	25pts
Mid-Semester Meeting	25pts
Professor Interview	50pts
Letter to Your Future Self	25pts
Campus Resource Project	100pts
Quizzes	100 pts (10 pts each)
Participation	120 pts (10 pts per class)

A+	100 and above
A	93-99.9
A-	90-92.9
B+	88-89.9
B	83-87.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	78-79.9
C	73-77.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	68-69.9
D	63-67.9
D-	60-62.9
F	59.9 and below

