

## **The Civic Leadership Living-Learning Community**

The Civic Leadership Living-Learning Community at Portland State University engages students in the local community while preparing them for leadership roles in their respective majors and for their careers. This community is part of the First Year Experience (FYE) Program at Portland State University (see <http://www.pdx.edu/housing/first-year-experience> for additional information of the FYE program).

To participate in this community, students will live in the FYE program and enroll in a special section of the Freshman Inquiry course *On Democracy* taught by Christopher Carey. Students are also encouraged to take PA 311U *Introduction to Civic Leadership*, a gateway course for the Civic Leadership minor, offered through the Hatfield School of Government in collaboration with the Center for Academic Excellence during their first year of study. Students will be housed on the same floor, participate in various community activities, and develop leadership skills through a variety of experiential-learning programs.

The specific goals of this civic leadership living-learning community include:

- Civic engagement and leadership focus
- In-depth community participation required as part of the course
- Year-long examination of democratic values and concepts
- Global citizenship exploration through community service, reflection, and class discussion
- Strong commitment to applying what is learned in the classroom in the local community
- Bridging of in-class learning to residence hall living through additional themed programming
- Supportive learning environment, enhanced through peer academic support and Learning Community Assistants

## **About the Freshman Inquiry *On Democracy* Course**

*“No Nation Can Remain Both Ignorant and Free.”*  
— Thomas Jefferson

In our globalized world, there has never been a greater need for strong leaders from a variety of disciplines to confront the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course takes on that challenge by developing leadership skills in first-year students. In addition to developing leadership skill, this course examines basic questions about democracy and participation. This course will trace the idea of "democracy" and particularly focus on democratic leadership in history, culture, art, economics and politics. This course will include a significant portion of time dedicated to developing leadership qualities in students and community engagement activities.

In addition to the reading and written analyses, the course will ask students to organize and present their conclusions in oral and visual form, to engage in statistical analysis the use of charts and tables to examine experience of democracy, to debate various aspects of the democratic project, and to explore democratic practice through projects in the local community.

## **About the Freshman Inquiry Professor**

**Christopher Carey**, PhD, J.D., is a former Deputy District Attorney and currently an Assistant Professor at Portland State University. He is a graduate of Arizona State University's Hugh Downs School of Human Communication, where his focus was intercultural communication. His expertise extends to the application of international law with an emphasis on human trafficking and conflict management. His international experience includes work in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Mexico. He has served as the executive director of an international non-profit working to alleviate the spread of human trafficking. When not learning about the world from his children Eli and Lilah, he can be found fly fishing the rivers and climbing the mountains of the Pacific Northwest.

If you have additional questions feel free to contact Christina Shafer ([cshafer@pdx.edu](mailto:cshafer@pdx.edu)) or Christopher Carey ([ccarey@pdx.edu](mailto:ccarey@pdx.edu)). You may also contact the Office of Residence Life at 503-725-2450.