



Civics at MCC

Simulations in the Political Science Classroom

- Democracy is predicated on an informed and active citizenry. Our founding fathers knew this from the very beginning. You can see it in the writings of Jefferson and Adams etc.
- If you don't have an informed and active citizenry, democracy's tend to lean towards oligarchy or even dictatorship.
- I don't believe you create active citizens by forcing them to memorize a textbook.
- My students don't learn simply by reading. They learn by doing
- They learn about Congress by being a member of Congress and competing with others to get legislation passed.
- So when you see a student on campus yelling at another student for filibustering their bill.....

Political Science Continued

- Yes, that's my fault.
- Seriously, hang around campus long enough and you will see it.
- In the cafeteria, the parking lot, the library...
- The students take these simulations very seriously.
- There can be a lot of drama surrounding the simulations, but I honestly don't believe any other method teaches them how to be an active citizen quite as effectively.
- They need to have skin in the game to understand the process.
- When they run for the presidency; the debates are heated.
- When they have to make snap judgments about how to save political hostages; I give them little time and high-stakes.

Political Science Concluded

- I believe a good teacher should walk what he or she talks.
- I'm involved in politics and activism both in this country and around the world.
- As a political violence specialist I am regularly involved in conflict zones in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. This has included:
 - Terrorism research
 - Protection of civilians from violence
 - Activism
- I often bring these experiences back home with me and incorporate them in the classroom.
- A book I wrote on peace activists whom I've worked with in the Middle East is part of the course reading in classes like International Relations–Political Science 251.
- Thanks for allowing me to give you a taste of some of the ways that we teach civics in the Political Science Department.

Civics Instruction in Adult Education

- Required for English as a Second Language instruction
- Covers topics
 - The Democratic Process
 - Community Resources
 - US School System
 - Health and Wellness
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Consumer Economics

Student Life & Service Learning

- Civic Engagement
 - Campus Election Engagement Project
 - Get Out the Vote initiative
 - Voter Registration & Awareness
 - League of Woman Voters
- Leadership Development
- 30 Student Organizations
 - Student Government
 - College Democrats
 - College Conservatives
 - Student Peace Action Network (SPAN)

“MCC offers service learning opportunities that involve students, faculty, and staff working together in the community.”

- Day (s) of Service
 - 1 held each semester
 - Saturday mornings
 - 4 locations
- MLK Day of Service
- Alternative Spring Break
- Silver Cord Award

Student Life & Service Learning in Action...



- **Student Nursing Organization**
 - Collaborates with Heartland Blood Center to host 2 Blood Drives each academic year
- **Student Government**
 - Collaborates with community organizations to encourage voter registration among MCC students
 - Volunteered with the Salvation Army during the holiday season
- **PRIDE Club**
 - Works with PFLAG of McHenry County
- **Student Peace Action Network**
 - Collects over 200 gifts for students, staff and faculty each season for students in Chicago with their Letters to Santa program
- **Student Veterans of America**
 - Participated in the McHenry County Human Race, donating their race fees to an organization of their choice
- **Multiple Student Organizations**
 - Participate in the annual Fall event, Penny Wars. Winning student organization donating all the funds to a local non-profit organization of their choice.



- **MLK Day of Service**
 - 40 MCC students, staff & faculty volunteered their time on campus, at the Home of the Sparrow, Turning Point, The Pink Door Thrift Shop, & Northwood Middle School
- **Alternative Spring Break**
 - Students have volunteered in several communities in need, including: Cedar Rapids, IA, Nashville, TN, Chicago, IL & Bloomington, IN
- **Day(s) of Service**
 - Providing volunteering students, staff, & faculty to non-profit organizations around McHenry County

