

SCHOOL OF CIVIC LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

The School of Civic Life and Leadership (SCiLL) provides an interdisciplinary home specifically for the study and practice of public discourse, civic life, and civic leadership. SCiLL provides students a grounding in the foundations and current state of American political experience and democracy. A wide range of courses build on this foundation to encourage thoughtful engagement with democracy and civility through a variety of disciplines. Students gain important skills for civil discourse on difficult issues, as well as increased scientific literacy. SCiLL hosts, supports and researches difficult and important conversations for the benefit of the campus, community, and broader public.

Minors

- Civic Life and Leadership (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/civic-life-leadership-minor/>)

Director and Dean

Jed Atkins.

Professors

Kurt Gray (Psychology and Neuroscience), Fabian Heitsch (Physics and Astronomy), Mark Katz (Music), Matthew Kotzen (Philosophy), Jason Roberts (Political Science), Sarah Treul Roberts (Political Science).

Associate Professors

Inger Brody (English and Comparative Literature), Christian Lundberg (Communication), Molly Worthen (History).


Courses

SCLL—School of Civic Life and Leadership

SCLL 100. Foundations of Civic Life and Leadership. 3 Credits.

This course provides an understanding of the big questions surrounding civic life and leadership. Part I uses classic texts of politics, philosophy, and literature to examine the role of the state in society and the tensions that exist between individual freedom and the powers of the state. Part II focuses on the American founding to understand the American experiment in democracy. Part III covers a set of controversies in modern civic life. Honors version available.


Rules & Requirements

 IDEAs in Action Gen Ed: FC-PAST or FC-VALUES.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

SCLL 101. Practice of Civic Life and Leadership. 3 Credits.

This course focuses on the ideas and practices necessary to analyze arguments and disagree in a productive and compassionate way, especially at a time of deep polarization in American culture. Students in this course will debate five, contentious, contemporary topics to practice researching multiple sides of an issue significant to civil society, engaging in oral and written argument, and developing criteria by which to evaluate argument, evidence, and debate performance.


Rules & Requirements

 IDEAs in Action Gen Ed: COMMBEYOND.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

SCLL 200. Science and Society. 3 Credits.

This course explores the role of the sciences in a polity in general, and in American democracy specifically. The course introduces students to the scientific method, its history and philosophical foundations, and its limitations. It explores the role of scientific evidence in societal and political decision making based on historic and current examples.

Rules & Requirements

 IDEAs in Action Gen Ed: FC-KNOWING.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

Contact Information

School of Civic Life and Leadership

Visit Program Website (<https://civillife.unc.edu>)

Director and Dean

Jed Atkins