SOC.4226 *American Civics Past and Present*

**Scope and sequence**

During AY19 and thereafter, LHS maintains a course entitled *American Civics Past and Present* (SOC.4226) in which comprehensive civics (U.S., MA, Lowell) will be covered (or reinforced if presented in earlier courses). This is a one-semester course that satisfies 2.5 credits of the 10-credit U.S. history graduation requirement.

All juniors in AY20 and thereafter will be required to take this course. This course includes participation in Generation Citizen, a project based, hands-on civics curriculum. Outside of Generation, SOC.4226 covers the following:

* Meaning and importance of civics in the democratic tradition
* Declaration of Independence
  + philosophical/ideological sources
* Constitution of the United States
  + philosophical/ideological sources
  + debates and compromises
  + amendments and how they have changed the Constitution as a living document
    - Emphasis on the Bill of Rights, 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th Amendments
  + nature of the rule of law within the Constitution
  + Constitutional structure of government (checks and balances; federal/state/individual rights)
* Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
  + philosophical/ideological sources
  + influence on the U.S. Constitution
* Municipal Structures in MA
  + Relationship between cities/towns, counties, and the Commonwealth
  + Lowell’s municipal structure as stipulated in MGL Ch. 43
  + The place of municipal ordinances in citizens’ daily lives
* The role of NGOs (non-governmental organizations/community organizations) in Civic Life
* Voting: mechanics, laws, politics (U.S., MA, Lowell)
* The Flag Code of the U.S.
* Provisions of 36 U.S.C. (Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations), 301; and, 4 U.S.C. (Flag, Seal, the Seat of Government, States), 4–10
* Major U.S. Supreme Court and MA Supreme Judicial Court cases and their role in the expansion of civil liberties in American and MA history
* Major U.S. and MA laws and their effect on civil liberties in American and MA history
* Hands-on, project-based civics through Generation Citizen and reinforcement of the above topics