

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
CONTINUING EDUCATION

**SECTION I**

**SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER**

ESLA 442

**COURSE TITLE**

ESL CITIZENSHIP

**TYPE COURSE**

NON-FEE

ESL

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on the further development of English language skills and knowledge of U.S. history and government. It prepares students for the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship and for success on all aspects of the naturalization process including the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization application and the USCIS naturalization interview exam. (FT)

**LECTURE/LABORATORY HOURS**

270

**ADVISORIES**

- Lawful Permanent Resident status in the United States

**RECOMMENDED SKILL LEVEL**

- Beginning High or higher ESL level proficiency.
- Basic knowledge of the minimum qualifications for citizenship mandated by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is recommended.

**INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Social Responsibility  
SDCE students demonstrate interpersonal skills by learning and working cooperatively in a diverse environment.
2. Effective Communication  
SDCE students demonstrate effective communication skills.
3. Critical Thinking  
SDCE students critically process information, make decisions, and solve problems independently or cooperatively.

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

4. Personal and Professional Development

SDCE students pursue short term and life-long learning goals, mastering necessary skills and using resource management and self-advocacy skills to cope with changing situations in their lives.

COURSE GOALS

1. Knowledge of the requirements and steps of the U.S. naturalization process
2. Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills for the USCIS naturalization application and interview
3. Comprehension of information on the N-400 naturalization application and related USCIS forms
4. Knowledge of U.S. history and government to pass the oral civics exam, part of the USCIS naturalization interview
5. Knowledge about the rights and responsibilities of living in the U.S. and of U.S. citizenship
6. Development of critical thinking skills to assess need for legal assistance and to problem-solve on answering N-400 questions.
7. Awareness and appreciation of diversity and cultural differences to succeed in the U.S. naturalization process
8. Digital literacy, numeracy, and soft skills to succeed in the U.S. naturalization process

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate knowledge of eligibility requirements
2. Identify steps of the naturalization process
3. Demonstrate oral and written communication skills in formal and informal situations
4. Respond orally to questions about personal information and background related to the N-400 naturalization application on the CASAS Citizenship Interview Test or comparable test and the USCIS interview
5. Demonstrate understanding of the N-400 naturalization vocabulary
6. Complete a sample N-400 naturalization application
7. Apply critical thinking skills for problem-solving and decision-making when assessing allegiance and moral character questions on the N-400 application and possible barriers to naturalization, including eligibility
8. Apply critical thinking and communication skills during the USCIS interview to interact, respond, clarify, express concerns, disagree, and request supervisory assistance in difficult exchanges
9. Participate collaboratively in short conversations and discussions on U.S. government, U.S. history, U.S. laws and comparisons with laws in other countries, U.S. immigration policies, and possible barriers to naturalization
10. Demonstrate knowledge of US history and government to pass the CASAS Government and History Listening Test or comparable test and the USCIS civics exam
11. Demonstrate knowledge of rights and responsibilities of people living in the U.S. before filing the application for naturalization or no later than the USCIS interview
12. Cite rights and responsibilities of living in the U.S. and of U.S. citizenship during the USCIS civics exam and interview

COURSE OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

13. Demonstrate cross-cultural awareness and etiquette to interact appropriately with people of diverse origins and in diverse settings
14. Demonstrate knowledge of security protocol when entering a federal building
15. Read sentences about U.S. history and government from the USCIS required vocabulary as in the reading test during the USCIS interview
16. Write dictated sentences about U.S. history and government from the USCIS required vocabulary as in the writing test during the USCIS interview
17. Apply digital literacy skills to locate USCIS information and forms, interact and collaborate with others, improve English skills and prepare for all aspects of the naturalization process
18. Apply numeracy skills for required computations on the N-400 naturalization application and other documents related to the naturalization process
19. Demonstrate soft skills that promote success through the naturalization process including USCIS interview and oath ceremony

**SECTION II**

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE

1. Naturalization Process and Eligibility Requirements
  - 1.1. Eligibility requirement
    - 1.1.1. Age
    - 1.1.2. Permanent residency
    - 1.1.3. Continuous residency
    - 1.1.4. Physical presence
    - 1.1.5. Time length in state
    - 1.1.6. Good moral character
    - 1.1.7. Attachment to the Constitution
    - 1.1.8. English language ability
    - 1.1.9. Civics knowledge
  - 1.2. Application process requirements
    - 1.2.1. Government forms
    - 1.2.2. Fees and Fee Waivers
    - 1.2.3. Biometrics
    - 1.2.4. Notification process
    - 1.2.5. Reading the N-400 form
    - 1.2.6. Filling-out the N-400 form
  - 1.3. Pre-Interview, interview, and post-interview
    - 1.3.1. Logistics at USCIS
    - 1.3.2. Anticipating commands and requests at USCIS site
    - 1.3.3. Format of biometrics procedure, naturalization interview, and oath ceremony
2. Naturalization Interview N-400 Speaking Test
  - 2.1. General Interview Skills
    - 2.1.1. Typical USCIS officer commands prior, during and after interview
    - 2.1.2. Swearing in
    - 2.1.3. Responding to questions prior, during, and after interview
    - 2.1.4. Responding to N-400 oral questions
    - 2.1.5. Demonstrating understanding of N-400 vocabulary

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

- 2.1.6. Asking for and responding to clarification
- 2.2. Eligibility requirements part of Form N-400
  - 2.2.1. Age
  - 2.2.2. Years of lawful permanent residence
- 2.3. Name, personal information, and exemptions part of Form N-400
  - 2.3.1. Current Name, other legal names, and nicknames used
  - 2.3.2. Name change information
  - 2.3.3. Social Security Number
  - 2.3.4. Dates, birth, and permanent residency
  - 2.3.5. Country of birth and current citizenship
  - 2.3.6. Medical waiver request
  - 2.3.7. Exemptions from English requirement laws
- 2.4. Accommodation part of Form N-400
  - 2.4.1. Adjustments in testing for disabilities and impairments
- 2.5. Contact part of Form N-400
  - 2.5.1. Phone and email information
- 2.6. Residence part of Form N-400
  - 2.6.1. Current and mailing address
  - 2.6.2. Past residences for 5 years
- 2.7. Parents information part of Form N-400
  - 2.7.1. Marital status of parents
  - 2.7.2. Name, county of birth, birthdate, immigration status of mother
  - 2.7.3. Name, county of birth, birthdate, immigration status of father
- 2.8. Biographic part of Form N-400
  - 2.8.1. Ethnicity and race
  - 2.8.2. Height and weight
  - 2.8.3. Eye and hair color
- 2.9. Employment and school part of Form N-400
  - 2.9.1. Jobs and schools current
  - 2.9.2. Jobs and schools past 5 years
- 2.10. Trips part of Form N-400
  - 2.10.1. Travel outside the U.S. during the past 5 years
- 2.11. Marital History Part of Form N-400
  - 2.11.1. Information about current marital status and number of marriages
  - 2.11.2. Information about current spouse
    - 2.11.2.1. Name and prior names
    - 2.11.2.2. Date of birth and of marriage
    - 2.11.2.3. Address
    - 2.11.2.4. Employment
    - 2.11.2.5. Immigration status
    - 2.11.2.6. Prior spouse(s) of current spouse information
  - 2.11.3. Information about prior spouse(s)
- 2.12. Children part of Form N-400
  - 2.12.1. Children, living and deceased
  - 2.12.2. Names, date of birth, immigration status, address
  - 2.12.3. Relationship: biological, step, legally adopted
- 2.13. Moral Character Past and Present part of Form N-400

- 2.13.1. Responding to questions in the simple past and present perfect
- 2.13.2. Immigration status honesty
- 2.13.3. Voting
- 2.13.4. Hereditary titles
- 2.13.5. Taxes
- 2.13.6. Mental competency
- 2.13.7. Memberships in acceptable and unacceptable groups
  - 2.13.7.1. Name of groups present and past
  - 2.13.7.2. Purpose, start and end date of membership
  - 2.13.7.3. Unacceptable membership
    - 2.13.7.3.1. Communist Party
    - 2.13.7.3.2. Totalitarian parties
    - 2.13.7.3.3. Terrorist organizations
    - 2.13.7.3.4. Groups that advocate violence
    - 2.13.7.3.5. Groups that persecute
    - 2.13.7.3.6. Nazi government of Germany during World War II or related group
- 2.13.8. Homeland Security concerns
  - 2.13.8.1. Criminal-type involvement world-wide
    - 2.13.8.1.1. Genocide
    - 2.13.8.1.2. Torture
    - 2.13.8.1.3. Killing or trying to kill
    - 2.13.8.1.4. Badly hurting or trying to hurt
    - 2.13.8.1.5. Rape or any kind of forced sexual contact
    - 2.13.8.1.6. Persecution because of religion
  - 2.13.8.2. Foreign military service and foreign police work history
  - 2.13.8.3. Employment in a jail, prison, labor camp, detention facility
  - 2.13.8.4. Training, use, buying and selling of weapons
  - 2.13.8.5. Training or use of children to support combat
- 2.13.9. Police Problems
  - 2.13.9.1. Detained, cited, arrested
  - 2.13.9.2. Charged and convicted of crimes
  - 2.13.9.3. Alternative sentencing, jail, and prison
  - 2.13.9.4. Probation or parole
  - 2.13.9.5. Record reason, location, date, and outcome of detainment, citation, arrest or charge
- 2.13.10. Crimes
  - 2.13.10.1. Habitual drunkard
  - 2.13.10.2. Prostitution
  - 2.13.10.3. Illegal drugs
  - 2.13.10.4. Polygamy
  - 2.13.10.5. Marriage fraud
  - 2.13.10.6. Assist with illegal entry
  - 2.13.10.7. Illegal gambling
  - 2.13.10.8. Failed child support or alimony
  - 2.13.10.9. Misrepresentation to receive public benefits
  - 2.13.10.10. False information or false documents to the government
  - 2.13.10.11. Lying to U.S. Government
- 2.13.11. Immigration problems

- 2.13.12. U.S. Armed Forces participation and military service problems
- 2.13.13. Selective Service
- 2.13.14. Allegiance to the United States
  - 2.13.14.1. Support of the Constitution
  - 2.13.14.2. Support of the form of government
  - 2.13.14.3. Understanding of the Oath of Allegiance
  - 2.13.14.4. Willingness to bear arms
  - 2.13.14.5. Willingness to perform noncombatant services
  - 2.13.14.6. Willingness to perform work of national importance
- 2.14. Applicant's Signature Part of Form N-400
  - 2.14.1. Applicant's signature and significance
- 2.15. Interpreter Part of Form N-400
  - 2.15.1. Information about translator and language translation and significance
- 2.16. Preparer Part of the N-400
  - 2.16.1. Information on Preparer other than applicant and significance
- 2.17. At the Interview Part of the N-400
  - 2.17.1. Changes to form during the interview, signatures, and significance
- 2.18. Renunciation of Foreign Title Part of the N-400
  - 2.18.1. Renunciation of affiliation to other governments and significance
- 2.19. Oath of Allegiance of the N-400
  - 2.19.1. Oath of Allegiance, signature, and significance
- 3. Principles of American Democracy
  - 3.1. Declaration of Independence
  - 3.2. U.S. Constitution
  - 3.3. Bill of Rights
  - 3.4. United States economic system
  - 3.5. Rule of law
- 4. System of Government in the United States
  - 4.1. Three branches of government
  - 4.2. Separation of power/checks and balances
  - 4.3. President and executive branch
  - 4.4. Vice President
  - 4.5. President's Cabinet
  - 4.6. Congress and legislative branch
  - 4.7. U.S. Senators
  - 4.8. U.S. Representatives
  - 4.9. Speaker of the House
  - 4.10. Bills and laws
  - 4.11. Supreme Court and the judicial branch
  - 4.12. Chief Justice of the United States
  - 4.13. Political parties
  - 4.14. Elections/voting
  - 4.15. Federal powers
  - 4.16. State powers
  - 4.17. State governors
  - 4.18. State capitals
- 5. Rights and Responsibilities
  - 5.1. Voting rights
  - 5.2. Responsibilities of citizens

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

- 5.3. Rights of citizens
- 5.4. Rights and responsibilities of everyone living in the United States
- 5.5. Pledge of Allegiance
- 5.6. Promises that naturalized citizens make
- 5.7. Participating in democracy
- 5.8. Federal income tax
- 5.9. Selective Service
- 6. Colonial Period and Independence
  - 6.1. Colonists in early America
  - 6.2. Native Americans
  - 6.3. Native American Tribes
  - 6.4. Slaves and slavery
  - 6.5. Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence
  - 6.6. 13 original states
  - 6.7. Constitutional Convention
  - 6.8. Federalist Papers
  - 6.9. Benjamin Franklin
  - 6.10. George Washington
- 7. American History during the 1800s
  - 7.1. Louisiana Purchase
  - 7.2. U.S. wars of the 1800s
  - 7.3. Civil War
  - 7.4. Abraham Lincoln
  - 7.5. Emancipation Proclamation
  - 7.6. Susan B. Anthony
- 8. Recent American History
  - 8.1. U.S. wars of the 1900s
  - 8.2. Woodrow Wilson
  - 8.3. Franklin Roosevelt
  - 8.4. Dwight Eisenhower
  - 8.5. World War II
  - 8.6. Cold War and communism
  - 8.7. Civil rights movement and Martin Luther King, Jr
  - 8.8. September 11, 2001
- 9. U.S. Geography and important places
  - 9.1. Rivers in the United States
  - 9.2. Coasts in the United States
  - 9.3. U.S. territories
  - 9.4. States that border Canada
  - 9.5. States that border Mexico
  - 9.6. Washington, DC
  - 9.7. Location of Statue of Liberty
- 10. U.S. Symbols and Holidays
  - 10.1. National anthem
  - 10.2. Independence Day
  - 10.3. National U.S. holidays

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

11. State and Local Government
  - 11.1. Organizations
  - 11.2. Office holders
  - 11.3. Contact information
  - 11.4. Ballot and election information
12. Basic Communication applying Soft Skills and Critical Thinking
  - 12.1. Small talk, greetings and leave-taking
  - 12.2. Clarification techniques
  - 12.3. Pronunciation strategies
  - 12.4. Responding to affirmative and negative questions
  - 12.5. Significance of an Oath
    - 12.5.1. Demonstrating comprehension of the Truth Oath
    - 12.5.2. Demonstrating comprehension of the Oath of Allegiance
  - 12.6. Defending oneself to authority figure
    - 12.6.1. Giving appropriate responses about forgetting information, and mistakes
    - 12.6.2. Disagreeing appropriately
    - 12.6.3. Expressing competence, preparedness, understanding, and honesty
    - 12.6.4. Requesting to speak to a higher authority
  - 12.7. Professionalism
    - 12.7.1. Appropriate hygiene and attire
    - 12.7.2. Body language and gestures
    - 12.7.3. Managing stress
    - 12.7.4. Controlling emotions
13. Soft Skills
  - 13.1. Time management
  - 13.2. Organizational skills
  - 13.3. Collaboration
  - 13.4. Leadership skills
14. Community Resources
  - 14.1. Legal assistance
    - 14.1.1. Identifying reputable nonprofit and private providers
    - 14.1.2. Inquiring about services and fees
    - 14.1.3. Understanding rights and responsibilities of client and provider
  - 14.2. Non-governmental organizations that offer assistance
    - 14.2.1. Tax help
    - 14.2.2. Emergency food and shelter
  - 14.3. Government websites, programs, and services
    - 14.3.1. Selective Services
    - 14.3.2. Social Security
    - 14.3.3. USCIS and USCIS Ombudsman's Office
    - 14.3.4. State Department for U.S. Passport
    - 14.3.5. Registrar of Voters
15. Digital Literacy Skills
  - 15.1. Basic computer skills
    - 15.1.1. Using cell phone app or reusable e-tablet for dictation and signatures
      - 15.1.1.1. Using a stylus or index finger
    - 15.1.2. Computer commands



- 15.1.3. Using a mouse
- 15.1.4. Uploading and downloading a document
- 15.1.5. Locating a browser
- 15.1.6. Taking standardized online tests
- 15.2. Finding and consuming digital content
  - 15.2.1. Toolbar and scrolling function
  - 15.2.2. Opening and closing applications
  - 15.2.3. Using keywords in a search engine and navigating results
  - 15.2.4. Uploading citizenship practice apps on phone
  - 15.2.5. Using citizenship educational websites and software
- 15.3. Netiquette
  - 15.3.1. Email
  - 15.3.2. Online discussion
    - 15.3.2.1. Utilizing online tools to interact with others
    - 15.3.2.2. Writing and responding to posts
- 15.4. Internet competency including security and privacy
  - 15.4.1. Setting up an online account with USCIS
  - 15.4.2. Creating a safe password
  - 15.4.3. Using online submission of N-400 application
  - 15.4.4. Distinguishing government and commercial websites
  - 15.4.5. Saving and retrieval of digital N-400 application
- 16. Numeracy
  - 16.1. Basic computations to answer N-400 application questions
    - 16.1.1. Duration of time for residency, employment, school, travel out of the country
    - 16.1.2. Immigration status and eligibility
  - 16.2. Interpreting graphs and charts about the naturalization process
    - 16.2.1. USCIS website
    - 16.2.2. N-400 application
    - 16.2.3. Instructions on government immigration forms
  - 16.3. U.S. Currency
    - 16.3.1. Identify information on and values of bills and coins
    - 16.3.2. Interpret income poverty guidelines
    - 16.3.3. Assess qualifications for fee waivers and fee reduction forms

### APPROPRIATE READINGS

Appropriate readings may include but are not limited to:

1. San Diego Community College District N-400 Packets; SDCCD online materials
2. USCIS government website [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) for current version of forms, test requirements, and interview preparation materials, and U.S. history and government educational materials
3. Citizenship textbooks, other books and periodicals related to information about U.S. history and government and the naturalization process
4. Newspaper and other media sources, print and on-line articles related to U.S. history and government and the naturalization process including readings that teachers have adapted for ESL from these sources

APPROPRIATE READINGS (CONTINUED)

5. Other government and community agency pamphlets or forms in print and on-line including but not limited to Selective Service, voter registration, sample ballot, Easy Voter Guide, U.S. Passport Application
6. On-line EL Civics and other educational materials related to U.S. history and government and the naturalization process
7. Sample letters and emails to elected officials

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Appropriate writing assignments may include but are not limited to:

1. N-400 form
2. Other sample forms required by USCIS
3. Dictation of words and sentences using USCIS designated vocabulary
4. Forms appropriate for a new citizen including voter registration, and passport
5. Letters and emails to elected officials
6. Summary explanations of N-400 answers
7. Email messages
8. Discussion board posts

APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL THINKING

Appropriate assignments that demonstrate critical thinking may include but are not limited to:

1. Role-play appropriate responses to mock USCIS interviews including problem scenarios
2. Analyze legal ramifications of naturalization application questions
3. Compare and contrast laws and systems of governments in U.S. and other countries
4. Interpret data from tables, charts, and graphs to inform decisions
5. Summarize an explanation to an N-400 application question
6. Cite evidence that supports a decision
7. Summarize news events presented via print media, TV, or Internet
8. Identify problems and pose solutions to societal issues
9. Work on a team project to synthesize information and report to the class
10. Small group presentations and projects

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS

Appropriate outside assignments may include but are not limited to:

1. Attending a USCIS workshop in the community
2. Participating in a USCIS office field trip
3. Observing a USCIS Oath Ceremony
4. Contacting an elected official
5. Volunteering as a class representative for ASB
6. Locating, observing, and participating in the free speech area on campus

## EVALUATION

Evaluation procedures may include but are not limited to:

1. Instructor observation of student performance and participation in class activities
2. Instructor-created listening comprehension exercises
3. Instructor-created simulated forms
4. Mock interviews with rubric assessment
5. Self-monitored progress checklists
6. Textbook unit tests
7. On-line citizenship software assessments
8. Instructor-created weekly or unit assessments
9. Student self-assessments provided by on-line tests
10. EI Civics performance-based assessments
11. Standardized tests including CASAS reading or listening tests
12. Instructor-created assessments based on Student Learning Objectives (SLO's), the course objectives, and course content
13. Fulfillment of attendance requirements

Upon successful completion of each course in the program, a Certificate of Course Completion will be issued. Upon successful completion of all courses included in the program, a Certificate of Program Completion will be issued.

## METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Effective techniques may include but are not limited to:

1. Cooperative learning activities
2. Focused listening exercises
3. Dialogue and role play
4. Paired activities, such as information gap exercises
5. Mock interview/simulations
6. Problem solving activities
7. Online: synchronous/asynchronous
8. Technology-enhanced instruction
9. Interactive media presentations
10. Lecture/lab
11. Task-based instruction
12. Group projects
13. Pronunciation drills
14. Dictation activities
15. Early Production to introduce new vocabulary
16. Field trips

Technology is integrated into instruction via learning management system (LMS), educational software, class websites, and digital devices.

This course, or sections of this course, may be offered through distance education.

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

Classroom texts may include but are not limited to:

Current Citizenship text approved by ESL Textbook Committee, such as current versions of:

*San Diego Community College District ESL Citizenship N-400 workbooks and CD packet*

USCIS website [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) for current version of forms, test requirements, interview preparation materials and U.S. history and government educational online materials

USCIS civics flashcards, and study booklets, and other USCIS resources

*Future U.S. Citizens*, Sarah Lynn, Federico Salas-Isnardi, Gemma Santos, Pearson/Longman, current edition

*U.S. Citizenship Test with DVD*, Karen Hilgeman, Winifred Ho, Kristen Sherman, McGraw Hill, current edition

*Voices of Freedom*, Bill Bliss, Pearson/Longman, current edition

*America's Story Book 1 and 2*, Angela O'Dell, Steck Vaughn, current edition

Supplemental materials may include but are not limited to:

1. Instructor-created lessons and materials
2. *USCIS Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants*, Teacher reference booklet
3. On-line and commercially published DVDs of mock naturalization interviews
4. San Diego Continuing Education Online Citizenship Modules
5. Open Education Resources (OER)
6. Interactive media and software for citizenship

PREPARED BY: Mechelle Perrott and Colleen Fitzmaurice,  
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DATE: December 1, 2021

REVISED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructors must meet all requirements stated in Policy 3100 (Student Rights, Responsibilities and Administrative Due Process), and the Attendance Policy set forth in the Continuing Education Catalog.

REFERENCES:

San Diego Community College District Policy 3100  
California Community Colleges, Title 5, Section 55002  
Continuing Education Catalog