


## Unit Resources - Glossary Terms from "Civil Rights and Citizenship"

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Glossary Terms from:  

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Show As Flash Cards

### **affirmative action**

a policy of taking active steps to remedy past discrimination

### **alien**

foreign-born resident, or noncitizen

### **amnesty**

the act of an authority (as a government) by which pardon is granted to a large group of individuals

### **assimilation**

the process by which people of one culture merge into, and become part of, another culture

### **citizen**

a member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to it by birth or naturalization and is entitled to full civil rights

### **civics**

the study of the rights and duties of citizens and of how government works

### **collective action**

steps taken together by a group of people with similar interests with the goal of achieving a common objective

### **de facto**

the situation as it exists in fact

### **de jure**

in accordance with the law

### **denaturalization**

the process through which naturalized citizens may involuntarily lose their citizenship

### **deportation**

a legal process in which aliens are legally required to leave the United States

**discriminate**

treat certain categories of people differently than people falling into other categories

**diverse**

composed of distinct or unlike elements or qualities

**electorate**

all of the people entitled to vote in a given election

**equal protection**

idea that the laws of a state, or of the nation, must treat any given individual in the same way as it would treat other individuals who are in similar conditions and circumstances

**Equal Protection Clause**

idea that the laws of a state, or of the nation, must treat any given individual in the same way as it would treat other individuals who are in similar conditions and circumstances

**expatriation**

the legal process by which a loss of citizenship occurs

**feminism**

the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities

**gerrymandering**

the drawing of electoral district lines to the advantage of a party or group

**glass ceiling**

an unfair system or set of attitudes that prevents some people (such as women or people of a certain race) from getting the most powerful jobs

**heterogeneous**

of another or different race, family or kind; composed of a mix of elements

**ideology**

a manner or the content of thinking characteristic of an individual, group, or culture

**immigration quotas**

numerical restrictions placed on immigrants from specified countries or regions

**integration**

incorporating people of different races equally into society without separating the races from each other

**interest groups**

private organizations whose members share certain views and work to shape public policy

**intermediate scrutiny test**

test in which the government must show that the law furthers an important government interest and uses means that are substantially related to that interest

**Jim Crow laws**

category of laws that were drafted for the purpose of discriminating against African Americans

**jus sanguinis**

the law of blood, which determines citizenship based on the citizenship of one's parents

**jus soli**

the law of soil, which determines citizenship based on where a person is born

**lobbying**

activities by which group pressures are brought to bear on legislators, the legislative process, and all aspects of the public policymaking process

**mass media**

means of communication that reach large audiences, especially television, radio, printed publications, and the Internet

**nationalism**

an extreme sense of national superiority, exalting one's own nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations

**naturalization**

the legal process by which citizens of one country become citizens of another

**partisan**

firmly adhering to a party, faction, cause, or person with unreasoning allegiance

**patriotism**

love that people feel for their country

**platform**

a political party's formal statement of basic principles, stands on major issues, and objectives

**political party**

a group of persons who seek to control government through winning elections and holding public office

**poll tax**

special tax, demanded by some states, as a condition of voting; outlawed by the Twenty-Fourth Amendment

**public agenda**

public issues on which the people's attention is focused

**public opinion**

complex collection of the opinions of many different people; the sum of all their views

**quota**

percentage of a group necessary to fulfill an affirmative action requirement

**rational basis test**

test in which the court asks whether the classification in a law has a reasonable relationship to the achievement of a proper governmental purpose

**reasonable classification**

concept that the government has the power to classify people, or group them together, but that the classification must be reasonable and not arbitrary

**refugee**

one who leaves his or her homeland to seek protection from war, persecution, or some other danger

**reservations**

public lands set aside by a government for use by Native American tribes

**reverse discrimination**

discrimination against a majority group

**segregation**

separation of one group from another on the basis of race

**separate but equal doctrine**

doctrine established by the court in the case Plessy v. Ferguson, in which it ruled that segregation could be maintained if the separation treated separated races equally

**sexual harassment**

uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature, especially by a person in authority toward a subordinate (as an employee or student)

**stereotype**

an unfair belief that all people or things with a particular characteristic are the same

**strict scrutiny test**

test in which the court holds the classification in a law to a higher standard; the state or federal government must show that its law is not related to an ordinary governmental purpose but to a compelling governmental interest

**suffragette**

a woman who worked to get voting rights for women in the past when women were not allowed to vote

**tolerance**

sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own