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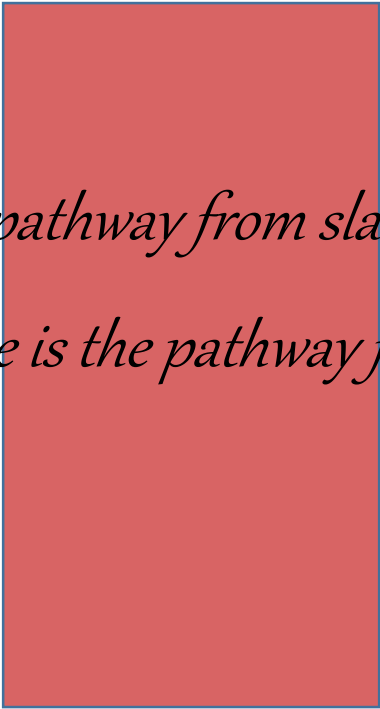
CIVIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM FOR RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY (RSU)

Through
CENTRE FOR
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Implemented
RIVERS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Programme: University-Wide General Studies	Level: 100–400 Level Students
Total Modules: 20 Modules across 5 Parts	Academic Year: 2024/2025 Session



*. "Knowledge is the pathway from slavery to freedom
and civic knowledge is the pathway from subject to
citizen."*

A Vision for Civic Education at RSU

The Rivers State University (RSU), as one of Nigeria's foremost state universities, occupies a unique position in shaping the civic consciousness of the Niger Delta region and the broader Nigerian nation. Located in Port Harcourt — the oil capital of Africa, a city defined by its commercial dynamism, its cultural richness, and its historical tensions — RSU graduates carry a special responsibility: they must not only excel in their professional fields but must become ethical citizens, informed participants in democratic processes, and advocates for justice, equity, and sustainable development.

This Civic Education Curriculum is designed as a transformative academic experience. It moves beyond rote memorization of constitutional provisions or the recitation of national symbols. Instead, it equips students with the intellectual frameworks, analytical skills, and moral courage needed to interrogate governance, to demand accountability, and to build the kind of society that works for every Nigerian — regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, or social class.

The curriculum is structured in five thematic parts comprising twenty carefully designed modules. Each module combines theoretical content with practical engagement, ensuring that learning does not remain abstract but is applied to real challenges facing Rivers State, the Niger Delta, and Nigeria as a whole.

Core Conviction: A university that produces citizens who can build bridges across ethnic divides, speak truth to power, protect the rights of the vulnerable, and serve their communities with integrity is a university that fulfills its highest mission.

Curriculum Philosophy

The philosophical foundation of this curriculum rests on three pillars: knowledge without civic responsibility is incomplete education; rights without duties produce entitlement without community; and democracy without informed citizens is merely a procedure without soul. RSU's civic education programme is therefore not merely academic — it is nation-building.

How to Use This Curriculum

Each module follows a consistent structure: learning objectives, theoretical content, case studies relevant to Nigeria and the Niger Delta, discussion questions, activities, and assessment guides. Lecturers are encouraged to contextualise examples to current events, and students are expected to engage not just as learners but as active civic agents.

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Foundations of Civic Knowledge

MODULE 1

Philosophy of Civics & Nationhood



1.1 Introduction: Why Civic Education Matters

Every political community rests on a foundational set of ideas about why human beings choose to live together, how they organise their collective life, and what obligations they owe to one another. Civic education is the discipline that helps citizens understand and evaluate these ideas — not as abstract philosophy but as the living framework that shapes their daily existence. In Nigeria, where the legitimacy of political institutions is frequently contested and where civic disengagement is both cause and effect of governance failure, civic education is not a luxury. It is an urgent national necessity.

1.2 The Social Contract: Foundational Theories

The concept of the social contract provides the most influential framework for understanding why citizens surrender certain natural freedoms in exchange for the benefits of organised society. Three thinkers dominate this tradition, and their ideas remain profoundly relevant to the Nigerian context.

Theorist	Core Argument	Nigerian Relevance
Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)	Life without government is 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.' Citizens surrender freedoms to a sovereign for absolute security.	Relevant to post-conflict Niger Delta communities needing strong state presence.
John Locke (1632–1704)	Government exists to protect natural rights: life, liberty, and property. Citizens may overthrow a government that violates these rights.	Basis for constitutional rights in Nigeria's 1999 Constitution.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778)	Sovereignty resides in the 'General Will' — the collective good of society, not individual rulers.	Foundation for democratic governance and electoral participation in Nigeria.

1.3 The Nigerian Social Contract

Nigeria's social contract was forged under unique and contested circumstances. The 1914 Amalgamation created a political entity that brought together over 250 ethnic nationalities without their consent. The Nigerian Constitution of 1999 opens with the bold declaration 'We the People of the Federal Republic of Nigeria' — yet its drafters were military officers, not elected representatives. This founding paradox means that Nigerian citizens must work especially hard to claim the social contract as their own.

Key Concept — Legitimacy: A government is legitimate not merely because it holds power, but because citizens accept it as rightfully exercising that power. Legitimacy is the foundation of the social contract. Without it, governance depends entirely on coercion.

1.4 Nation vs. State: Understanding Nigeria's Complexity

A critical distinction for Nigerian civic education is the difference between a nation (a group of people sharing culture, language, history, and identity) and a state (a political entity with territory, government, and sovereignty). Nigeria is a multi-nation state — one political entity containing many nations: Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa-Fulani, Ijaw, Ogoni, Efik, Tiv, and hundreds more. The challenge of building a coherent civic identity across this diversity is Nigeria's central political project.

Discussion Question: If the social contract in Nigeria was forged under colonial and military conditions rather than democratic consensus, what steps must contemporary citizens take to renew and claim that contract for themselves?

1.5 Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this module, students should be able to: explain the core arguments of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau; analyse the strengths and weaknesses of Nigeria's social contract; distinguish between nation and state and apply these concepts to the Nigerian context; and articulate why civic education is essential for democratic consolidation in Nigeria.

MODULE 2

The Nigerian Constitution — Our Supreme Law



2.1 Overview: What Is a Constitution?

A constitution is the supreme law of a land — the foundational document that establishes the structure of government, distributes power among its branches and tiers, protects the rights of citizens, and sets limits on what government may do. Nigeria's 1999 Constitution (as amended) serves this function, though its legitimacy has been questioned by many scholars who note that it was promulgated by a departing military government rather than adopted by a constituent assembly.

2.2 Structure of the 1999 Constitution

The Constitution comprises eight chapters covering 320 sections. Understanding its architecture is essential for any educated Nigerian citizen. The Constitution is divided into major thematic parts that together provide the legal framework for governance at all levels.

First Half of Constitution	Second Half & Schedules
Chapter I: General Provisions (Sections 1–14)	Chapter VII: The Judicature (Sections 230–296)
Chapter II: Fundamental Objectives & Directive Principles (Sections 13–24)	Chapter VIII: Federal Capital Territory (Sections 297–303)
Chapter III: Citizenship (Sections 25–32)	Third Schedule: Federal Executive Bodies
Chapter IV: Fundamental Rights (Sections 33–46)	Second Schedule: Exclusive & Concurrent Lists
Chapter V: The Legislature (Sections 47–157)	First Schedule: States of the Federation
Chapter VI: The Executive (Sections 130–199)	Seventh Schedule: Oath of Office

2.3 Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles (Chapter II)

Chapter II of the Constitution contains aspirational provisions that outline what the Nigerian state is supposed to achieve. While these provisions are non-justiciable (meaning they cannot be directly enforced in court under Section 6(6)(c)), they provide a moral and political compass for governance. Citizens and civil society organisations use Chapter II as a standard against which to measure government performance.

2.4 Key Directive Principles Students Must Know

Several provisions of Chapter II are particularly important for RSU students as future civic leaders. Section 15 mandates the promotion of national integration and prohibits discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, religion, or place of origin. Section 16 sets out economic objectives, including the duty of the state to ensure reasonable distribution of the material resources of the nation. Section 17

establishes social objectives, including equal pay for equal work. Section 18 mandates free, compulsory primary education. Section 20, the environmental provision, obligates the state to protect and improve the environment and safeguard water, air, and land — a provision of enormous significance for the oil-polluted Niger Delta.

2.5 Constitutional Amendments: An Evolving Document

The 1999 Constitution has undergone significant amendments through the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Alteration Acts. Key amendments include the addition of the Fourth Alteration Act provisions on devolution of powers, amendment of Section 9 on the amendment procedure itself, and significant changes to electoral provisions. Students should understand that a constitution is a living document — it should evolve as the society it governs evolves.

Activity: Obtain a copy of the 1999 Constitution (freely available on the National Assembly website). Find and read Section 20 (Environmental Objectives). Write a one-page analysis of whether the Nigerian government has fulfilled this obligation in the Niger Delta over the past 25 years.

MODULE 3

Human Rights and the Rule of Law



3.1 The Concept of Human Rights

Human rights are those fundamental entitlements that every human being possesses by virtue of being human — not because a government has granted them, but because they are inherent in human dignity. The modern human rights framework emerged from the ashes of the Second World War, codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. Nigeria, as a member of the UN and as a signatory to major human rights treaties, is bound by these international standards.

3.2 Fundamental Rights Under Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution

Chapter IV of Nigeria's Constitution guarantees specific fundamental rights to all persons in Nigeria. These rights are justiciable — meaning any person whose rights are violated can go to court for redress. Understanding these rights is the first step toward defending them.

Section	Right	Content
Section 33	Right to Life	No person shall be deprived of his life intentionally, except in execution of a court sentence.
Section 34	Right to Dignity	No person shall be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, or held in slavery.
Section 35	Right to Personal Liberty	Every person shall be entitled to personal liberty. Detention without trial is unlawful.
Section 36	Fair Hearing	Every person charged with a criminal offence shall be entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time.
Section 37	Right to Privacy	Citizens' privacy in their homes, correspondence, telephone conversations is protected.
Section 38	Freedom of Thought, Conscience & Religion	Every person is entitled to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.
Section 39	Freedom of Expression	Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression and the press.
Section 40	Freedom of Assembly & Association	Every person shall be entitled to assemble freely and associate with other persons.
Section 41	Freedom of Movement	Every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely

		throughout Nigeria and reside in any part.
Section 42	Freedom from Discrimination	No citizen shall face discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, sex, religion, or political opinion.

3.3 The Rule of Law: Government Under the Law

The rule of law is the principle that all persons — including government officials — are subject to and accountable to the law, rather than arbitrary decisions by those in power. A.V. Dicey, the British constitutional scholar, identified three elements of the rule of law: the supremacy of regular law over arbitrary power; equality before the law; and the constitution as a consequence of individual rights rather than their source.

In practice, the rule of law requires an independent judiciary, a legal system that applies equally to all persons, transparent and predictable laws, access to justice for all citizens, and protection of rights against both private and government interference. When police officers extort students, when judges collect bribes, or when governors divert public funds — these are violations of the rule of law that every citizen must be equipped to recognise and resist.

Niger Delta Case Study — Ken Saro-Wiwa: Ken Saro-Wiwa and the MOSOP leaders were executed in 1995 under the Abacha regime after proceedings before a special military tribunal that denied them fair hearing, access to adequate legal representation, and the right of appeal — violations of Sections 35, 36, and the fundamental principle of the rule of law. Their deaths galvanised international human rights advocacy and remain a defining moment in Nigeria's human rights history.

3.4 Limitations on Rights

No right is absolute. The Constitution itself provides for derogation from certain rights in specified circumstances. Section 45 permits restriction of rights guaranteed in Sections 37–41 in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality, or public health. However, any such restriction must be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society — a standard that courts in Nigeria and internationally use to prevent governments from using emergency provisions as a pretext to suppress political opposition or civic protest.

Discussion Question: During the #EndSARS protests of October 2020, the Lagos State government imposed a curfew and military personnel opened fire on protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate. Analyse this event using the framework of Sections 39, 40, and 41 of the Constitution. Were the government's actions justifiable under Section 45?



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

MODULE 4

National Symbols and Identity — Unity in Diversity

4.1 Beyond Flag and Anthem: The Deeper Meaning of National Symbols

Most Nigerians can identify the national flag — green, white, green — and many can hum the national anthem. But national symbols carry meanings far deeper than their surface forms. They are the material embodiment of a nation's identity, values, and aspirations. For a country as complex as Nigeria, with over 250 ethnic groups, three dominant religions, and a history scarred by colonialism, civil war, and military dictatorship, the question of national identity is not merely academic — it is existential.

4.2 Nigeria's Official National Symbols

Nigeria's national symbols were established to provide a common basis of identity for its diverse peoples. The national flag, designed by Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi in 1959, features two green stripes representing Nigeria's agricultural wealth and forests, flanking a white stripe symbolising peace and unity. The coat of arms depicts a black shield representing the fertile soil of Nigeria, flanked by white horses representing dignity, with an eagle above representing strength, and a wreath of native flowers at the base.

The national anthem, 'Arise O Compatriots' (adopted in 1978, replacing 'Nigeria We Hail Thee'), calls citizens to serve their fatherland with strength and faith. The pledge, recited daily in schools, commits Nigerians to 'faithfulness, loyalty and honesty' and to 'defend the unity and promote the well-being of my country.' Nigeria's motto, 'Unity and Faith, Peace and Progress,' encapsulates the aspirations of a nation still working toward all four.

Important Note — 2024 Anthem Change: In 2024, the National Assembly passed legislation restoring the original pre-independence national anthem 'Nigeria We Hail Thee' (1960). This decision sparked national debate about the politics of nostalgia, national identity, and legislative priorities. Students should be able to analyse this policy decision critically from a civic education perspective.

4.3 The Challenge of National Identity in a Multi-Ethnic State

Building a coherent national identity in Nigeria requires confronting rather than papering over the country's diversity. The failure of past leaders to build inclusive national identity has fuelled ethno-religious tensions, secessionist movements, and civic disengagement. Effective citizenship in a multi-ethnic democracy requires the capacity to hold multiple identities simultaneously: one can be Ijaw, Rivers State indigene, and Nigerian — all at once, without contradiction.

Cultural Wealth: Our Common Heritage	More Reasons for National Pride
The Igbo and Yoruba cultures have enormous literary traditions	Over 520 languages are spoken across Nigeria
The Nok terracotta sculptures are among Africa's oldest art	The Niger River basin supports one of Africa's richest ecosystems
The Benin Bronzes represent world-class artistic achievement	Nigerian Afrobeats has conquered global music charts
The Tiv people's gbande music is uniquely Nigerian	Nollywood is the world's second largest film industry
The Ijaw Owonari festival celebrates environmental stewardship	Nigerian cuisine reflects extraordinary regional diversity

MODULE 5

History of the Nigerian State — 1914 to the Fourth Republic

5.1 The Colonial Foundation: 1861–1914

Modern Nigeria's story begins with British colonial ambition. The annexation of Lagos in 1861 was followed by the gradual extension of British control over the territory that would become Nigeria. In 1900, the Royal Niger Company's territories were taken over by the British Crown, creating the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria and the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. The Amalgamation of January 1, 1914, engineered by Governor-General Lord Frederick Lugard, merged the Northern and Southern Protectorates into one administrative unit — ostensibly for administrative efficiency but fundamentally for economic exploitation.

Critical Analysis: Lugard's Amalgamation was not a consensual union. The peoples of what became Nigeria were not consulted. The amalgamated entity served British economic and administrative interests. Understanding this founding trauma is essential for understanding contemporary Nigeria's political instability, ethnic tensions, and the ongoing debates about restructuring.

5.2 The Road to Independence: 1914–1960

The nationalist movement that eventually produced Nigerian independence drew on a complex combination of elite political action, mass mobilisation, pan-African ideology, and the contradictions of colonial policy itself. Key figures include Herbert Macaulay (often called the Father of Nigerian Nationalism), Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Ahmadu Bello, and Anthony Enahoro — who famously moved the motion for independence in 1953. Independence was achieved on October 1, 1960, with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as Prime Minister.

5.3 From Republic to Coup: 1960–1979

Nigeria's First Republic (1960–1966) collapsed under the weight of ethnic competition, electoral fraud, and political violence — most dramatically exemplified by the Western Region Crisis of 1965–66 that preceded the first military coup of January 15, 1966. What followed was a traumatic period: the counter-coup of July 1966, the mass killing of Igbo people in the North, the Biafran secession attempt, and the devastating civil war of 1967–1970 that claimed between one and

three million lives. The war ended with General Gowon's famous declaration that there was 'no victor, no vanquished' — though the promise of post-war reconciliation was only partially fulfilled.

Era	Period	Key Characteristics
First Republic	1960–1966	Parliamentary democracy, regional autonomy. Collapsed through ethnic conflict and electoral fraud.
First Military Era	1966–1979	Series of military governments: Ironsi, Gowon, Murtala, Obasanjo. Civil war 1967–70.
Second Republic	1979–1983	Presidential system under Shagari. Collapsed through economic mismanagement and corruption.
Second Military Era	1983–1999	Buhari, Babangida, Abacha, Abdulsalami. June 12 crisis; Abacha tyranny; transition to democracy.
Third Republic (attempt)	1992–1993	Aborted transition. MKO Abiola wins presidential election; results annulled by Babangida.
Fourth Republic	1999–Present	Ongoing democratic governance. Obasanjo, Yar'Adua, Jonathan, Buhari, Tinubu administrations.

5.4 The Fourth Republic: Lessons and Trajectory

The Fourth Republic, inaugurated on May 29, 1999, represents Nigeria's longest unbroken stretch of civilian democratic governance. Twenty-five years in, the republic has demonstrated resilience through multiple transitions, including the historic 2015 election in which an incumbent president (Goodluck Jonathan) conceded defeat to an opposition candidate (Muhammadu Buhari) — a first in Nigerian history. Yet significant challenges persist: insecurity, poverty, corruption, infrastructure deficit, and electoral integrity remain urgent. RSU students are the generation that must determine whether Nigeria's democracy deepens or stagnates.

Governance and Institutions

MODULE 6

The Three Arms of Government — Checks and Balances



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PRESIENCY

SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

6.1 The Doctrine of Separation of Powers

The principle of separation of powers holds that the three fundamental functions of government — making laws, executing laws, and interpreting laws — should be performed by separate and independent institutions, each serving as a check on the others. Attributed to the French philosopher Montesquieu (*The Spirit of the Laws*, 1748), this doctrine is the constitutional architecture upon which Nigeria's government is built. Nigeria's 1999 Constitution enshrines this separation through its chapters on the Legislature (Chapter V), the Executive (Chapter VI), and the Judiciary (Chapter VII).

6.2 The Legislature: Law-Making Power

Nigeria's federal legislature is the National Assembly, consisting of the Senate (109 senators — 3 from each state plus 1 from the FCT) and the House of Representatives (360 members, proportionally allocated by population). The National Assembly makes federal laws, appropriates public funds, oversees the executive, ratifies treaties, and confirms presidential appointments. State legislatures (Houses of Assembly) perform similar functions at the state level. RSU students should understand that an active legislature is the institutional voice of citizens in governance.

6.3 The Executive: Implementing Power

The President of Nigeria is both head of state and head of government, elected for a four-year term renewable once. The President appoints a cabinet of ministers (subject to Senate confirmation), commands the armed forces, and has primary responsibility for policy implementation. The power of presidential pardon, the power to declare emergencies, and significant control over the budget make the Nigerian presidency arguably the most powerful constitutional office in Africa. Governors exercise similar powers at the state level.

6.4 The Judiciary: Interpreting Power

The judiciary interprets the constitution and laws, resolves disputes between individuals and between government institutions, and protects fundamental rights. The Supreme Court is the apex court, followed by the Court of Appeal, the Federal High Court, the National Industrial Court, State High Courts, Sharia Courts, and Customary Courts. Judicial independence is protected by security of tenure for judges and financial autonomy for the judiciary. In practice, judicial

independence in Nigeria has been compromised by executive interference, corruption, and inadequate funding.

Checks and Balances in Practice: The legislature can impeach the president; the president can veto legislation (which the legislature can override by two-thirds majority); the judiciary can nullify both executive actions and legislative laws that violate the constitution. This system of mutual constraint is designed to prevent tyranny. RSU students should monitor whether these checks operate in practice in Rivers State.

MODULE 7: Federalism in Practice — A Multi-Level System

Credit Units 3 Units	Duration 4 Weeks (12 Hours)	Assessment Policy Brief Writing
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7.1 The Concept of Federalism

Federalism is a system of government in which power is constitutionally divided between a central (federal) government and regional (state or provincial) governments, with each tier possessing its own sphere of authority. Nigeria adopted federalism primarily because of the vast diversity of its population — it was seen as the best way to hold together a multi-ethnic, multi-religious nation while allowing regional communities to govern themselves in matters of local concern.

7.2 Nigeria's Three Tiers: Federal, State, and Local

Nigeria's federal system has three constitutionally recognised tiers. The Federal Government operates from Abuja and has jurisdiction over matters in the Exclusive Legislative List (Second Schedule, Part I of the Constitution) — including defence, immigration, aviation, railways, and petroleum resources. State governments have concurrent jurisdiction with the Federal Government over matters in the Concurrent List, and exclusive jurisdiction over matters not listed — residual powers. Nigeria's 36 states and 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) are supposed to provide governance closest to the people.

Exclusive Federal Powers	Concurrent/State Powers
Defence and security	Agriculture and natural resources (concurrent)
Immigration and citizenship	Education (concurrent)
Mines and minerals (including petroleum)	Health (concurrent)

Currency and banking	Environment (concurrent)
Customs and excise duties	Housing (state)
Aviation and airports	Chieftaincy matters (state)
Railways and federal roads	Local government administration (state)

7.3 The Politics of Revenue Allocation

The allocation of federal revenues among the three tiers is one of the most contentious issues in Nigerian federalism. The current formula distributes Federation Account revenues roughly as follows: 52.68% to the Federal Government, 26.72% to the 36 States, and 20.60% to the 774 Local Government Areas. For oil-producing states, an additional 13% derivation is paid from federation revenues — a provision that is central to the Niger Delta resource control debate (addressed in depth in Module 13).

Governance Gap — Local Government Autonomy: Section 7 of the Constitution guarantees the democratic existence of Local Government Councils. However, many state governments have denied LGA autonomy, collecting LGA revenues at the state level and disbursing at will. The Supreme Court in 2024 ruled that the Federal Government must remit LGA allocations directly to LGA accounts — a landmark decision for grassroots governance. RSU students should monitor its implementation in Rivers State.

MODULE 8

The Electoral Process — Democracy in Action

8.1 Elections as the Foundation of Democracy

Elections are the primary mechanism through which citizens in a democracy choose their representatives, hold leaders accountable, and transfer power peacefully. The quality of democratic governance is fundamentally tied to the integrity of the electoral process. For Nigeria, which has experienced rigged elections, electoral violence, and voter apathy, building a credible electoral system is one of the most important tasks of democratic consolidation.

8.2 The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

INEC was established by Section 153 of the Constitution and its Third Schedule as the body responsible for conducting elections to federal and state offices. INEC's responsibilities include voter registration, delimitation of constituencies, accreditation of election observers, administration of elections, declaration of results, and registration/deregistration of political parties. The independence of INEC from executive interference is constitutionally guaranteed but frequently challenged in practice, particularly regarding the timing of commissioners' appointments and budget allocations.

8.3 Technological Innovation: BVAS and IReV

The 2022 Electoral Act introduced game-changing provisions for election technology. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) uses fingerprint and facial recognition to verify voters' identities, replacing the manual voter card inspection that was easily manipulated. The INEC Results Viewing Portal (IReV) requires that polling unit result sheets (Form EC8A) be uploaded in real-time to a publicly accessible online portal immediately after counting — allowing citizens, political parties, and observers to cross-check official results against polling unit originals. These innovations represented a significant step toward election transparency, though implementation challenges remained in the 2023 general elections.

The 2023 Elections: A Civic Education Case Study: The 2023 presidential and gubernatorial elections in Nigeria demonstrated both progress and persistent challenges. BVAS was deployed nationally for the first time; IReV results were inconsistently uploaded

in several states. Multiple election tribunals heard petitions. The Supreme Court's final ruling on the presidential election petition in October 2023 sparked public debate about judicial independence. Students should analyse these events as a practical study in electoral democracy.

8.4 The Election Cycle: From Primaries to General Elections

Understanding the full election cycle is essential for effective civic participation. Party primaries select candidates according to each party's constitution and INEC guidelines. Campaigns are regulated by INEC spending limits and rules on campaign finance disclosure, though enforcement remains weak. On election day, INEC deploys ad-hoc staff, voting proceeds from 8am to 2:30pm (or until all accredited voters have voted), counting is conducted openly at each polling unit, and results are transmitted through a collation hierarchy from polling unit to ward to local government to state to INEC headquarters for presidential elections.

MODULE 9

Political Parties and Ideologies in Nigeria

9.1 The Role of Political Parties in Democracy

Political parties are the organisational vehicles through which citizens aggregate their preferences, recruit candidates for public office, and organise governments. A healthy multi-party democracy requires parties with genuine ideological distinctions, internal democratic structures, broad membership, and accountability to their members. In Nigeria, political parties have historically been weak institutions — characterised by weak ideology, patron-client relationships, cross-carpeting of politicians, and dependence on individual financiers rather than mass membership dues.

9.2 Major Nigerian Political Parties: A Brief Analysis

Nigeria's party landscape has shifted dramatically since 1999. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) dominated the first sixteen years of the Fourth Republic (1999–2015) before losing the presidential election to the All Progressives Congress (APC) — a coalition formed in 2013 from the merger of four major opposition parties. The Labour Party (LP) emerged as a significant force in the 2023 elections, particularly among younger urban voters. The New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) and other parties continue to contest. INEC registers parties that meet specified requirements including national spread of membership.

Ideological Vacuum in Nigerian Politics: Most Nigerian political parties are not ideologically differentiated. The PDP, APC, LP, and NNPP do not represent clearly distinct positions on economic policy, social policy, or foreign affairs. Politicians routinely defect from one party to another without any change in their policy positions. Students should ask: what would genuine ideological political competition look like in Nigeria, and how could it improve governance?

MODULE 10

Public Administration and Bureaucracy

10.1 The Civil Service: Nigeria's Administrative Spine

The civil service is the permanent, professional, non-partisan body of public servants who implement government policies regardless of which political party is in power. Nigeria's civil service, established during the colonial period and inherited at independence, has a proud tradition of professional excellence represented by figures like Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa himself, who began as a civil servant. However, decades of political interference, underfunding, and corruption have severely degraded civil service capacity and morale.

10.2 Challenges of Nigerian Bureaucracy

The Nigerian civil service faces endemic challenges. Ghost workers — individuals drawing salaries without working — have cost the federal government hundreds of billions of naira. The Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIIS) was introduced partly to address this. Political appointments to supposedly technical positions undermine meritocracy. Corruption in procurement processes inflates costs and reduces service quality. Bureaucratic red tape and poor working conditions drive talented civil servants to the private sector. Reforming public administration is therefore not merely a management issue but a fundamental governance challenge.

Rivers State Specific: Rivers State has been a site of significant civil service reform debates, including controversies over political appointments, revenue allocation transparency, and the effectiveness of state agencies in delivering services to oil-bearing communities. RSU students should examine the performance of Rivers State ministries, departments, and agencies as a practical case study in public administration.

The Niger Delta Context

MODULE 11

Environmental Rights and Stewardship in the Niger Delta



11.1 The Environmental Crisis: Scale and Significance

The Niger Delta is home to one of the world's most significant environmental disasters — decades of oil exploration and production that have contaminated land, water, and air across a region of 70,000 square kilometres, home to over 30 million people. Gas flaring, oil spills, acid rain, and the destruction of mangrove forests have devastated the ecology upon which fishing and farming communities have depended for centuries. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland, released in 2011, described contamination at levels that would require a 25–30 year remediation programme — the largest and most complex oil cleanup ever undertaken anywhere in the world.

11.2 The Legal Framework: From Constitution to the PIA

Environmental protection in Nigeria is addressed at multiple legal levels. Section 20 of the 1999 Constitution establishes the state's duty to protect the environment. The Environmental Impact Assessment Act requires environmental assessments before major projects. The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) is mandated to coordinate oil spill response. Most recently, the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) of 2021 represents the most significant reform of Nigeria's oil industry governance in decades.

11.3 The Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021: A Critical Analysis

The Petroleum Industry Act 2021 fundamentally restructured Nigeria's petroleum sector. Key provisions include the establishment of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) to replace the former DPR. The PIA also established the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) as a commercialised entity, separating policy functions from commercial operations — a long-demanded reform.

11.4 Host Community Development Trusts

One of the most significant provisions of the PIA for Niger Delta communities is the establishment of Host Community Development Trusts. Under the Act, companies in the upstream petroleum sector are required to set aside 3% of their actual annual operating expenditure for the development of host communities through a Board of Trustees that includes community representatives. This provision was designed to address decades of community exclusion from

oil revenue benefits — though critics argue the 3% is insufficient given the scale of environmental damage, and implementation challenges remain significant.

For RSU Students: As future professionals from the Niger Delta, you have both a personal and professional stake in environmental justice. Whether you become an engineer, a lawyer, a doctor, or a teacher — the environmental context of the Niger Delta will affect your community and your work. Civic education means understanding your rights as a host community member and knowing how to advocate effectively for environmental remediation.

11.5 Environmental Rights as Human Rights

International law increasingly recognises that the right to a clean and healthy environment is a human right. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2022 recognising this right as universal. For Niger Delta communities whose health, livelihoods, and cultural life have been devastated by oil pollution, environmental rights advocacy is inseparable from human rights advocacy. Students should understand the legal avenues available to communities seeking redress — including national courts, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and international investor arbitration mechanisms.

MODULE 12

Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in Volatile Regions

12.1 Understanding Conflict in the Niger Delta

The Niger Delta has experienced multiple overlapping forms of conflict over the past six decades: resource conflicts between oil companies and host communities; inter-community conflicts over land, boundaries, and resource access; armed militancy driven by political exclusion and economic marginalisation; and intra-community conflicts inflamed by competition for oil company community development contracts. Understanding the root causes of these conflicts is the first step toward sustainable peacebuilding.

12.2 Non-Violent Communication (NVC)

Developed by psychologist Marshall Rosenberg, Non-Violent Communication provides a practical framework for resolving conflicts without violence or coercion. NVC teaches communicators to observe situations without evaluation or judgment; to identify and express feelings; to connect feelings to underlying needs; and to make specific, actionable requests rather than demands. For community leaders, student union officers, and future civil servants in Rivers State, NVC skills can transform the way conflicts are managed at all levels.

12.3 Community Mediation Strategies

Community mediation is a structured process in which a neutral third party facilitates negotiation between conflicting parties to reach a mutually acceptable resolution. Effective community mediation in the Niger Delta context must be culturally sensitive, acknowledge historical grievances, involve women and youth (who are often marginalised from traditional conflict resolution processes), and address both immediate disputes and underlying structural causes. Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms — such as the Ijaw Egbesu arbitration and Itsekiri palaver systems — offer valuable indigenous wisdom that should complement formal mediation approaches.

The Amnesty Programme Lesson: The 2009 Presidential Amnesty Programme for Niger Delta militants, while imperfect, demonstrated that sustained engagement, economic incentives, and political dialogue could significantly reduce armed conflict. By 2012, oil production had recovered to its highest levels in years. The lesson for civic education: conflict transformation requires addressing both the symptoms (violence) and the underlying causes (exclusion, injustice, poverty).

MODULE 13

Resource Control and Fiscal Federalism

13.1 The Resource Control Question

Resource control refers to the principle that the communities and states from which natural resources are extracted should have primary control over — or at least a significantly larger share of revenue from — those resources. In Nigeria's context, this debate centres on whether oil-producing states and communities in the Niger Delta should receive a greater proportion of petroleum revenues, given that it is their land that is drilled, their environment that is degraded, and their communities that bear the social costs of oil production.

13.2 History of the Derivation Formula

At independence in 1960, Nigeria operated a system in which 50% of mining revenues were returned to the region of origin. This was a generous derivation rate that reflected the founders' respect for regional economic autonomy. By 1979, however, the derivation principle had been severely eroded. Military governments progressively centralised oil revenues, reducing the derivation rate first to 20%, then to 1.5% under Babangida. The current 13% derivation, established under Section 162(2) of the 1999 Constitution, is the product of political compromise and sustained Niger Delta advocacy — but many activists argue it remains inadequate.

Year	Derivation Rate	Context
1960	50%	At independence — highest derivation, reflecting federal spirit of founders.
1969	45%	Reduction began as oil became dominant revenue source.
1979	20%	Further erosion under military period.
1981	2%	Dramatic reduction; centralisation of oil revenues.
1995	13%	Compromise derivation under Abacha — maintained in 1999 Constitution.
1999–Present	13%	Current constitutional minimum — Niger Delta advocates push for 25–50%.

13.3 The Case for and Against Higher Derivation

Proponents of higher derivation argue that environmental justice demands that communities bearing the costs of resource extraction receive proportionate compensation; that higher derivation would create stronger incentives for oil-producing states to develop sustainable economies beyond oil dependency; and that the 1960 constitutional tradition of generous derivation should be restored as part of genuine restructuring. Opponents argue that higher derivation would disadvantage non-oil-producing states that lack equivalent revenue bases; that Nigeria's oil is a 'national patrimony' belonging to all Nigerians; and that better governance of existing revenues would be more effective than redistribution.

For RSU Students — Take a Position: The resource control debate is not merely academic. It affects Rivers State's budget, your university's funding, and the quality of public services in your community. Study the arguments carefully. Develop an evidence-based position. Learn to articulate it in writing and in public debate. This is what civic education is for.

Contemporary Issues & Ethics

MODULE 14

Anti-Corruption and Integrity — The Enemy Within

14.1 The Cost of Corruption

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It is not merely a moral failing — it is an economic catastrophe, a governance crisis, and a human rights violation. The African Union estimates that corruption costs Africa \$148 billion annually. In Nigeria, the systemic looting of oil revenues has meant that a country that has earned over \$600 billion from petroleum since the 1970s still has 133 million people living in multidimensional poverty. Every naira stolen from public coffers is a hospital not built, a school not equipped, a road not repaired, a child not educated.

14.2 The Anti-Corruption Institutional Architecture

Nigeria has established a substantial institutional architecture for fighting corruption, though its effectiveness depends heavily on political will and judicial independence. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), established in 2002, investigates and prosecutes financial crimes including fraud, money laundering, and corruption. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), established in 2000, focuses on corruption in the public sector, education, and civil service. The Code of Conduct Bureau monitors asset declarations by public officers. The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) tracks suspicious financial transactions.

EFCC — Key Facts	ICPC — Key Facts
Established: 2002	Established: 2000
Jurisdiction: Financial crimes, money laundering	Jurisdiction: Corruption in public institutions
Key cases: Diezani Alison-Madueke probe, James Ibori conviction	Focus: Civil service, education sector, public procurement

Focus: Private sector and public sector financial crimes	Key power: Can initiate prosecutions independently
Key achievement: Asset recovery from corrupt officials	Focus: Preventive and educational anti-corruption work

14.3 Corruption and the Graduate: Personal Ethics

Institutional anti-corruption bodies cannot succeed without a culture of integrity among citizens. The choices that individual RSU graduates make — whether to offer bribes, whether to accept gratification, whether to falsify records, whether to speak up when they witness wrongdoing — collectively determine the character of Nigerian governance. Civic education must build not just knowledge of anti-corruption laws but the moral resolve to uphold integrity in the face of peer pressure, financial stress, and institutional normalisation of corruption.

Integrity Pledge for RSU Students: I commit to: never offering or accepting a bribe in any form; reporting corruption when I witness it; living within my legitimate means; holding public officials accountable through legal and civic means; and being the kind of professional whose integrity is beyond question in whatever field I serve.

MODULE 15

Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy

15.1 The Digital Revolution and Democracy

The internet and social media have transformed political participation, information access, and civic engagement. Nigerians are among Africa's most active social media users — Twitter (now X), WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram are not merely entertainment platforms but spaces where news spreads, public opinion forms, political campaigns are fought, and social movements organise. The #EndSARS movement of 2020 demonstrated both the extraordinary mobilising power of social media and its vulnerability to manipulation, surveillance, and shutdown.

15.2 Fighting Fake News: Critical Media Literacy

Misinformation — false information spread without intent to deceive — and disinformation — false information deliberately spread to mislead — represent major threats to democratic discourse. In Nigeria, fake news has incited ethnic violence, spread panic during health emergencies, damaged reputations, and undermined electoral integrity. Critical media literacy is the civic skill of evaluating information sources, cross-checking claims, identifying manipulated images or videos, and resisting emotional manipulation. RSU students should know and practise the SIFT method: Stop before sharing; Investigate the source; Find better coverage; Trace claims to their origin.

15.3 The Cybercrime Act and Digital Rights

The Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act 2015 criminalises a range of online offences in Nigeria, including hacking, cyberstalking, identity theft, and the sending of messages intended to cause annoyance or inconvenience. However, the Act's Section 24 — which criminalises 'cyberstalking' in broad terms — has been widely criticised by human rights organisations as a tool for suppressing journalistic investigation and political speech. Multiple journalists and bloggers have been arrested under this provision. Students should understand both the legitimate protective functions of cybercrime law and its potential for abuse.

Using Social Media for Civic Advocacy: Social media is a powerful civic tool when used with purpose and accuracy. Students can use platforms to: track and report environmental violations; document human rights abuses; advocate for policy changes; organise

community action; hold elected officials accountable by tracking their promises. Civic advocacy requires factual accuracy, respectful discourse, and strategic communication — not just outrage.

MODULE 16

Gender Inclusion and the Rights of Vulnerable Groups

16.1 The Gender Gap in Nigerian Governance

Nigeria's record on gender inclusion in political participation is among the poorest in Africa. Despite comprising over 50% of the population, women hold less than 4% of seats in the National Assembly — far below the African average of 25% and the Inter-Parliamentary Union's recommended minimum of 30%. The 2022 Electoral Act attempted to incentivise party inclusion of women candidates through reserved primaries, but implementation was contested. Rivers State has had female commissioners and local government officials, but the gender gap in elected positions remains stark.

16.2 Legal Framework for Women's Rights

The constitutional guarantee of non-discrimination in Section 42 applies regardless of sex. The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP) 2015 criminalises domestic violence, rape, female genital mutilation, and other forms of gender-based violence. The Child Rights Act 2003 (adopted in Rivers State) protects children from abuse, trafficking, and early marriage. Nigeria is also party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Maputo Protocol, which impose international obligations to advance gender equality.

16.3 Persons With Disabilities: Rights and Inclusion

The Discrimination Against Persons With Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018 prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in employment, education, and access to public facilities. It mandates access ramps in public buildings, sign language interpretation in public broadcasts, and equal opportunity in public sector employment. However, implementation remains poor across Nigeria, including at most universities. RSU students with disabilities face barriers in physical accessibility, learning accommodations, and social inclusion. Building a truly inclusive university is both a legal obligation and a civic responsibility of all students.

Children's Rights — Nigeria's Responsibility: Nigeria has 87 million children — the world's largest child population after India and China. Nigeria also has some of the world's

worst child poverty, out-of-school child, and child malnutrition statistics. Understanding the legal and moral framework for children's rights is civic education for a generation that will govern this country while these children grow up.

MODULE 17

Civil Society and Advocacy — The Third Sector

17.1 What Is Civil Society?

Civil society refers to the space between the family, the market, and the state — the realm of voluntary associations through which citizens organise to pursue common interests, advance shared values, and engage with public institutions. Civil society organisations (CSOs) include non-governmental organisations (NGOs), professional associations, trade unions, religious organisations, student bodies, community development associations, and advocacy groups. A vibrant civil society is both a product of democracy and a precondition for its survival.

17.2 The Role of CSOs in Nigerian Governance

Civil society organisations play crucial roles in Nigerian governance: monitoring elections and documenting irregularities; providing legal aid to citizens whose rights are violated; delivering social services where government fails; conducting policy research and advocacy; building civic capacity through voter education; and creating accountability mechanisms for government performance. Organisations like the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), CLEEN Foundation, BudgIT, Connected Development (CODE), and Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria have made significant contributions to Nigerian democracy.

17.3 Student Bodies and Professional Organisations as Civic Actors

University students — through the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), RSU Student Union Government, faculty associations, and departmental societies — represent a powerful segment of civil society. Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), and other professional bodies have been influential in shaping policy debates. For RSU students, engagement with these bodies is not merely extracurricular — it is training for civic leadership.

BudgIT: Technology and Budget Transparency: BudgIT is a civic-technology startup that translates Nigeria's complex budget documents into simple, visual formats accessible to ordinary citizens. By making budgets understandable, BudgIT has empowered communities to demand accountability for allocated funds. This is a model for how technology and civic engagement can work together — relevant to RSU students pursuing careers in technology, journalism, or public policy.

PART FIVE
RSU Campus Citizenship

MODULE 18



18.1 The Cultism Crisis in Nigerian Universities

Cultism — the activities of secret, oath-bound, violent organisations operating within university campuses — represents one of the most serious threats to the safety, academic freedom, and institutional integrity of Nigerian universities. Campus cults in Nigeria evolved from American fraternity-inspired groups in the 1950s and 1960s, primarily at the University of Ibadan. Over subsequent decades, these groups degenerated from social and intellectual clubs into criminal organisations characterised by ritual initiation, gang warfare, extortion, murder, and drug trafficking.

18.2 The Legal Framework Against Cultism

The Secret Cult and Similar Activities Prohibition Law is enacted in Rivers State and many other states, criminalising membership of, initiation into, and material support for secret cults. Penalties include imprisonment for up to seven years. The Violence in Tertiary Institutions Act (VTI Act) at the federal level provides additional legal sanctions. Universities themselves typically have zero-tolerance policies resulting in expulsion for proven cult involvement. More importantly, the oath of secrecy, the culture of violence, and the moral corruption that cult membership requires are fundamentally incompatible with the values of an educated, ethical citizen.

18.3 Understanding Why Students Join Cults

Preventing cultism requires understanding why students are drawn to these organisations. Research consistently identifies social isolation and the need for belonging; fear and vulnerability (joining for protection); financial inducement; peer pressure and family connections; excitement and the appeal of secret identity; and the perception that cult connections facilitate career advancement. Addressing these root causes — by building inclusive campus communities, providing adequate student support services, creating legitimate channels for social connection, and exposing the hollow promises of cult membership — is more effective than enforcement alone.

A photograph of a classroom during a presentation. A large projection screen at the front displays the text "STUDENT UNION: VOICE + VOTE = POWER". Below the screen, a group of approximately 15 students is standing on a small stage. One student in the center is speaking into a microphone. A banner behind them reads "MICRO-DEMOCRACY IN ACTION". The audience, seen from behind, is seated at desks and some have their hands raised. The entire image has a red overlay.

**STUDENT UNION:
VOICE + VOTE = POWER**

MODULE 19

Student Unionism as a Micro-Democracy

19.1 The Student Union as a Democratic Laboratory

The Student Union Government (SUG) of Rivers State University is not merely a student social club — it is a micro-democracy in which students have the opportunity to practise the democratic skills, institutional procedures, and leadership qualities they will need throughout their civic lives. The SUG has a constitution, elections, separation of powers, checks and balances, and accountability mechanisms that mirror (at smaller scale) the national democratic system. Engaging seriously with student governance is the best preparation for larger civic leadership.

19.2 History and Significance of Student Unionism in Nigeria

Nigerian student unionism has a distinguished history of civic engagement and democratic advocacy. The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) and its predecessors were at the forefront of resistance to military dictatorship, advocates for democratic transition, and monitors of government policy on education, fuel subsidies, and public services. Student strikes, marches, and boycotts — when organised around legitimate grievances and conducted peacefully — are legitimate exercises of civic freedom protected by Sections 39 and 40 of the Constitution.

19.3 Principles of Responsible Student Leadership

Responsible student leadership requires a clear distinction between serving students' genuine interests and using student platforms for personal advancement or factional politics. Student leaders who embezzle union funds, who compromise on student welfare for political connections, or who use their positions to intimidate fellow students betray the democratic purpose of student unionism. The principles that should guide RSU student leaders are: accountability to constituents; transparency in the management of student union funds; inclusive representation of

diverse student voices including women, students with disabilities, and postgraduate students; and constructive engagement with university administration on student concerns.

What Excellent Student Leaders Do	What Responsible Student Unions Protect Against
Organise town halls on pressing campus issues	Resist political manipulation from off-campus actors
Publish transparent financial statements of SUG funds	Create women's leadership development programmes
Advocate for improved library and laboratory facilities	Organise community service projects in Port Harcourt
Create mentorship programmes connecting junior and senior students	Provide legal awareness workshops for students
Engage with university management on housing and safety	Document and report violations of student rights



MODULE 20

Community Service and Volunteerism — The Town and Gown Philosophy

20.1 The Town and Gown Philosophy

The phrase 'town and gown' refers to the relationship between a university institution and the surrounding community — 'gown' representing the academic robes of scholars, 'town' representing the urban community in which the university is situated. In the ideal vision of the university-community relationship, the university serves as an intellectual resource for the community, conducting research on local challenges, providing professional services, training community leaders, and serving as a civic anchor. In return, the community provides the social context in which the university operates and contributes to its human capital.

20.2 RSU in Port Harcourt: Opportunities for Civic Engagement

Rivers State University sits within one of Nigeria's most complex, vibrant, and challenging urban environments. Port Harcourt is simultaneously Nigeria's oil capital and home to significant urban poverty; a cultural hub and a site of environmental degradation; a commercial centre and a context of persistent insecurity. RSU's location creates unique opportunities for students to engage with real civic challenges — environmental advocacy in oil-polluted communities; legal aid in low-income neighbourhoods; health education in underserved communities; digital literacy training for out-of-school youth; and civic education in secondary schools.

20.3 Service-Learning: Integrating Academic Study and Civic Action

Service-learning is a pedagogical approach that combines structured community service with academic reflection, allowing students to develop both disciplinary knowledge and civic competencies through real-world engagement. An engineering student who designs a low-cost water purification system for a Niger Delta community; a law student who provides legal representation to market traders facing arbitrary police extortion; a communication student who

runs a community radio programme on environmental rights — these are examples of service-learning that enriches both the student's education and the community's wellbeing.

Community Service Requirement: As part of RSU's civic education programme, all students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of structured community service during their undergraduate study. This service must be: planned in advance; supervised; documented; and reflected upon in a written report that connects the service experience to the civic education curriculum. Service activities should be approved by the Department of General Studies.

20.4 The Graduate as Community Asset

The ultimate measure of RSU's civic education programme is not the examination score — it is whether our graduates leave the university equipped and motivated to make a positive difference in their communities. An RSU graduate who uses their legal training to challenge environmental injustice, who uses their medical training to provide free services in underserved communities, who uses their engineering skills to build infrastructure for host communities, who uses their business acumen to create employment in Rivers State — this graduate embodies what civic education is designed to produce. Not just a technically skilled professional, but an ethically grounded citizen-leader.

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND GRADING RUBRIC

Programme-Wide Assessment Philosophy

Assessment in RSU's Civic Education Programme is designed to evaluate not only knowledge retention but the development of civic skills, critical thinking, and ethical values. The assessment framework uses a combination of written examinations, project-based assessment, performance tasks (such as debates and moot courts), and practical civic engagement activities to capture the full range of learning outcomes. No single assessment method can adequately measure civic competence — a multi-modal approach is therefore essential.

Assessment Components by Category

Assessment Type	Weight	Description
Written Examination (End of Semester)	40%	Tests conceptual understanding and analytical ability. All modules.
Coursework Assignments	25%	Essays, policy briefs, constitutional analysis, case studies. Module-specific.
Group Projects & Presentations	15%	Collaborative work assessing teamwork, research, and communication skills.
Practical Civic Engagement	10%	Community service, simulation exercises, moot courts, debates.
Continuous Assessment (Attendance, Participation)	10%	Evaluates engagement, preparation, and quality of class contribution.

Grading Rubric for Written Assignments

Grade Range	Grade/GPA	Criteria
Distinction (70–100%)	A (5.0)	Demonstrates comprehensive understanding; excellent analysis; well-structured argument; proper citation of constitutional provisions, case law, and scholarly sources; insightful and original conclusions.

Credit (60–69%)	B (4.0)	Good understanding and analysis; clear structure; adequate references; sound conclusions with minor gaps.
Merit (50–59%)	C (3.0)	Satisfactory understanding; some analytical weakness; adequate but limited references; conclusions present but underdeveloped.
Pass (45–49%)	D (2.0)	Basic understanding demonstrated; limited analysis; minimal references; weak conclusions.
Fail (0–44%)	F (0.0)	Insufficient understanding; poor analysis; missing or incorrect references; no clear conclusions.

Community Service Assessment Rubric

Component	Weight	Criteria
Service Documentation	30%	Quality and completeness of service log, photographs, supervisor signatures, and community contact details.
Reflection Report	40%	Depth of connection between service experience and civic education concepts; quality of analysis; evidence of personal growth and civic development.
Presentation	20%	Quality of oral presentation to class; ability to answer questions; clarity and organisation.
Community Impact	10%	Evidence that the service activity had genuine positive impact on the community served, as documented by community feedback.

Module Assessment Quick Reference

Module	Primary Assessment	Details
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Module 1 — Philosophy of Civics	Essay + Debate	2,000-word essay on social contract relevance to Nigeria + 10-minute debate.
Module 2 — The Constitution	Constitutional Analysis	Annotated analysis of 5 selected constitutional provisions.
Module 3 — Human Rights	Case Study + Moot Court	Human rights case analysis + simulated court proceeding.
Module 4 — National Identity	Creative Project	Multi-media presentation on a Nigerian cultural heritage element.
Module 5 — History	Timeline Project	Annotated historical timeline with critical analysis.
Module 6 — Three Arms of Government	Institutional Analysis	Comparative analysis of checks and balances in theory vs practice.
Module 7 — Federalism	Policy Brief	1,500-word policy brief on revenue allocation reform.
Module 8 — Electoral Process	Election Simulation	Class election simulation followed by critical analysis report.
Module 9 — Political Parties	Platform Analysis	Comparative analysis of manifestos of three major Nigerian parties.
Module 10 — Public Administration	Service Delivery Analysis	Assessment of a Rivers State public service delivery system.
Module 11 — Environment	Environmental Impact Report	Community environmental assessment project.
Module 12 — Conflict Resolution	Mediation Role Play	Facilitated mediation exercise with written reflection.
Module 13 — Resource Control	Policy Debate	Structured debate on derivation formula + position paper.
Module 14 — Anti-Corruption	Case Study + Pledge	Corruption case analysis + integrity commitment.
Module 15 — Digital Citizenship	Fact-Check Project	Documented fact-checking of 10 social media claims.
Module 16 — Gender Inclusion	Policy Analysis	Gender gap analysis in Rivers State political representation.
Module 17 — Civil Society	CSO Mapping	Directory of active CSOs in Rivers State with activity analysis.
Module 18 — Anti-Cultism	Safety Policy Brief	Campus safety improvement policy proposal.
Module 19 — Student Unionism	Constitution Analysis	Critical review of RSU SUG constitution + election simulation.

Module 20 — Community
Service

Service Report

Documented community service
project with reflection report.

REFERENCES AND RECOMMENDED READINGS

A. Constitutional and Legal Documents

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Petroleum Industry Act, 2021. Federal Government of Nigeria. National Assembly, Abuja.

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D. Online Resources and Databases

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria: www.nassnig.org

INEC Official Website: www.inecnigeria.org

EFCC Official Website: www.efcc.gov.ng

BudGIT Nigeria Budget Tracker: www.budgit.org

Africa Check (Fact-Checking): www.africacheck.org

Human Rights Watch Nigeria Reports: www.hrw.org/africa/nigeria

UN Treaty Collection (Human Rights Conventions): www.treaties.un.org

A COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL CITIZENSHIP

Rivers State University — Class of Every Year

This curriculum is a living document. It will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect changes in Nigerian law, governance practice, and the civic challenges facing Rivers State and the Niger Delta. Students, faculty, and community members are encouraged to contribute suggestions for improvement.

The twenty modules presented in this curriculum represent a comprehensive civic education for the 21st century. But curricula do not build nations — citizens do. The goal of this programme is to send into Nigerian society graduates who know their rights and exercise them responsibly, who understand their obligations and fulfil them faithfully, who can analyse power and speak truth to it with evidence and courage.

*"The most common way
people give up
their power is by thinking
they don't have any."*

Alice Walker



"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."
— **Frederick Douglass**



RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY

Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Civic Education for a Better Nigeria — Civic Education for a Better World