

HIST 2650 - CL History of American Democracy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 05, CRN 43836,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

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Public Instructor Information

MA in History, Youngstown State University, 2024

Instructor Office Location: DeBartolo Hall 518

Course Description

2650. CL History of American Democracy. A one semester survey of the American past focusing on history and civic literacy. The emphasis will be on important developments in American political, economic, and social history; particularly on the emergence and evolution of the concepts of democracy and the American economic system. No prerequisite. Meets state "Civic Literacy" requirements. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	OpenStax Textbook		

OpenStax Textbook Link

Students are required to read and demonstrate mastery over all of the following:

1. The Declaration of Independence
2. The Constitution of the United States
3. Five of the Federalist Papers (No. 10, 39, 42, 51, 78)
4. Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations
5. The Emancipation Proclamation
6. The Gettysburg Address
7. Letter from Birmingham Jail

Students are also expected to utilize the following Supplemental documents:

Letter on First Voyage to America

A Model of Christian Charity

Maryland Act of Toleration

Statues of Virginia

Articles of Confederation

Northwest Ordinance

Tyranny Unmasked

Democracy in America

Declaration of Sentiments

Dred Scott Decision

Cornerstone Speech

Reconstruction Amendments

On Indian Affairs

Images from How the Other Half Lives

Significance of the Frontier

Returning Soldiers

Four Freedoms

Enemies from Within

The Sharon Statement

Port Huron Statement

The Feminine Mystique

Protest Music (Collection)

What's Wrong with (Equal Rights) for Women?

Crisis of Confidence

Reagan's First Inaugural Address

Buchanan's Address to RNC (Video)

Bush's State of Union Address (Video)

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Module 1 - "Letter on Voyage to America" Module 1 - "A Model of Christian Charity"	1: Origins of the United States	Quiz 1 due 8/28
8/31	Module 1 - Maryland Act of Toleration Module 1 - Statutes of Virginia Module 1 - Declaration of Independence		PSA 1 due 9/4 CSA 1 due Sunday, 9/6
9/7	NO CLASS 9/7 - Labor Day Module 2a - Articles of Confederation Module 2a - Northwest Ordinance	2a: Revolutionary Governments	Quiz 2a due 9/9
9/14	Module 2a - United States Constitution Module 2b - Federalist No. 10 Module 2b - Federalist No. 39	2b: Revolutionary Governments, Continued	Quiz 2b due 9/14 PSA 2a due 9/18 CSA 2a due Sunday, 9/20
9/21	Module 2b - Federalist No. 42 Module 2b - Federalist No. 51 Module 2b - Federalist No. 78		PSA 2b due 9/25 CSA 2b due Sunday, 9/27
9/28	Module 3 - "The Wealth of Nations" Module 3 - "Tyranny Unmasked" Module 3 - "Democracy in America"	3: Economic Transformations	Quiz 3 due 9/30
10/5	Module 3 - Declaration of Sentiments Module 3 - Dred Scott v. Sandford Module 4 - Cornerstone Speech	4: Union and Liberty in Crisis	PSA 3 due 10/9 CSA 3 due Sunday, 10/11
10/12	Module 4 - Emancipation Proclamation Module 4 - Gettysburg Address Module 4 - Reconstruction Amendments		Quiz 4 due 10/14 PSA 4a due Sunday, 10/18



10/19	Module 4 - "On Indian Affairs" Module 5 - Images from "How the Other Half Lives" Module 5 - "The Significance of the Frontier"	5: Democracy at Home and Abroad	PSA 4b due 10/23 CSA 4 due 10/25
10/26	Module 5 - "Returning Soldiers" Module 5 - "The Four Freedoms" Module 5 - "Enemies from Within"		Quiz 5 due 10/26 PSA 5 due 10/30 CSA 5 due Sunday, 11/1
11/2	Module 6 - The Sharon Statement Module 6 - Port Huron Statement Module 6 - Letter from Birmingham Jail	6: Pursuit of the American Promise	Quiz 6 due 11/4
11/9	Module 6 - "The Feminine Mystique" NO CLASS 11/11 - Veterans Day Module 6 - Protest Music		PSA 6 due 11/13 CSA 6 due Sunday, 11/15
11/16	Module 7 - "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women?" Module 7 - "Crisis of Confidence"		PRACTICE FINAL 11/16
11/23	Module 7 - Reagan's First Inaugural Address NO CLASS 11/25 and 11/27 - Thanksgiving Break		Quiz 7 due 11/23
11/30	Module 7 - Buchanan's Address to the RNC Module 7 - Bush's State of the Union Address		PSA 7 due 12/4 CSA 7 due 12/6
12/7	FINAL EXAM 12/7	FINAL EXAM 10:30AM to 12:30 PM	

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.