

HIST 2650 - CL History of American Democracy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 06, CRN 43837,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Martha Pallante

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor/ Dr. Martha I. Pallante

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., AmericanHistory,University of Pennsylvania,1988

M.A.,American History/Historical Preservation,College of William and Mary,1982

BA–History/education,Youngstown State University,1977

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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	The Declaration of Independence	Thomas Jefferson	NA
Required	The Constitution of the United States	Continental Congree	NA
Required	Federalist Papers (No. 10, 39, 42, 51, 78	Jams Madison and Alexander Hamilton	NA
Required	The Wealth of Nations	Adam Smith	NA
Required	The Emancipation Proclamation	Abraham Lincoln	NA
Required	Gettysburg Address	Abraham Lincoln	NA
Required	Letter from Birmingham Jail	Martin Luther King	NA
Required	US History	openstax	NA

Additional Required Reading beyond the state mandates

Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (1630)

Maryland's "Act of Religious Toleration" (1649)

from Statues of Virginia (1667-1682)

from Haudenosaunee "Great Law of Peace" (c. 1750)

Articles of Confederation (1777)

Northwest Ordinance (1787)

Owen, "Discourses" (1825)

from De Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1835)

"Declaration of Rights & Sentiments" (1848)

Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)

Stephens, "Cornerstone Speech" (1861)

The Reconstruction Amendments (1865-1870)

Chief Joseph, "An Indian's View on Indian Affairs"(1879)

from Riis, How the Other Half Lives (1890) [images]

from Turner, "The Sig. of the Frontier" (1893)

DuBois, "Returning Soldiers" (1919)

Roosevelt, "The Four Freedoms" (1941) [audio]

Nixon, "The Kitchen Debate" (1959) [audio/visual]

Hernandez v. Texas (1954)

The Port Huron Statement (1962)

from Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (1963)

selections of protest music [audio]

Schlafly, "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women" (1972)

Carter, "Crisis of Confidence" (1979) [audio/visual]

Reagan, First Inaugural Address (1981) [audio/visual]

Buchanan, "Address to the RNC" (1992)[audio/visual]

Bush, State of the Union (2002) [audio/visual]

All materials for this course are available in BlackBoard. No purchases are required.

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	Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (1630) Maryland's "Act of Religious Toleration" (1649) from Statues of Virginia (1667-1682)	1. Origins of the United States	Quiz- 26 August
8/31	from Haudenosaunee "Great Law of Peace" (c. 1750) Declaration of Independence		Comparative Source Assignment-31 August Primary Source Analysis-4 September
9/7	Articles of Confederation (1777)	2a Founding the Republic-	Quiz-2 September
9/14	Northwest Ordinance (1787) Constitution of the United States		Comparative Source Assignment-14 September Primary Source Assignment-18 September



9/21	The Federalist Papers (1787-1788) No. 10: faction/partisanship No. 39: republicanism No. 42: powers of Congress/states No. 51: federalism/checks and balances No. 78: independent judiciary	2b Founding the Republic-	Quiz -21 September Comparative Source Assignment-23 September Primary Source Assignment-25 September
9/28	Smith, The Wealth of Nations (1776) Owen, "Discourses" (1825) from De Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1835)	3: American Capital	Quiz-30 September
10/5	"Declaration of Rights & Sentiments" (1848) Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)		Comparative Source Assignment- 5 October Primary Source Assignment-9 October
10/12	Stephens, "Cornerstone Speech" (1861) Lincoln, The Emancipation Proclamation (1863) Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address (1863)	4: Union and Liberty in Crisis	Quiz-14 October
10/19	The Reconstruction Amendments (1865-1870) Chief Joseph, "An Indian's View on Indian Affairs" (1879)		Comparative Source Assignment-19 October Primary Source Analysis-a-22 October Primary Source Analysis-b-23 October
10/26	from Riis, How the Other Half Lives (1890) [images] from Turner, "The Sig. of the Frontier" (1893) DuBois, "Returning Soldiers" (1919)	5: Democracy at Home and Abroad	Quiz- 28 October
11/2	Roosevelt, "The Four Freedoms" (1941) [audio] Nixon, "The Kitchen Debate" (1959) [audio/visual]		Comparative Source Assignmen-4 November Primary Source Analysis-6 November
11/9	Hernandez v. Texas (1954) The Port Huron Statement (1962) King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (1963)	6: Pursuit of the American Promise	Quiz-10 November
11/16	from Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (1963) selections of protest music [audio]		Comparative Source Assignment 18 November Primary Source Analysis - 20 November
11/23	Schlaflly, "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women" (1972) Carter, "Crisis of Confidence" (1979) [audio/visual] Reagan, First Inaugural Address (1981) [audio/visual]	7: Modern America	PRETEST FOR FINAL-23 November Quiz - 24 November
11/30	Buchanan, "Address to the RNC" (1992) [audio/visual] Bush, State of the Union (2002) [audio/visual]		Primary Source Analysis - 4 December Comparative Source Assignment- 2 December
12/7		Final Exam	retest if necessary

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.