

HIST 2650 - CL History of American Democracy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 11, CRN 43842,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

John Patrick

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adjunct Faculty

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

PhD History Kent State University 1982

MA History Youngstown State University 1977

BA History Youngstown State University 1972

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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			
	Declaration of Independence		
	U.S. Constitution		
	Federalist Papers no. 10, 39,42,51,78		
	Wealth of Nations		
	Emancipation Proclamation		
	Gettysburg Address		
	Letter from Birmingham Jail		

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 Statutes 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 9 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 The New 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 Assignment- 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) selection 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)	Comparative Source Assignment-2 December Primary Source Analysis-4 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.