

HIST 2650 - CL History of American Democracy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 44330,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Kyle Starkey

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Kyle Timothy Starkey, PhD

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

PhD., History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Master's, History, Youngstown State University

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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	Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (1630)		
Required	Maryland's "Act of Religious Toleration" (1649)		
Required	from Statues of Virginia (1667-1682)		
Required	from Haudenosaunee "Great Law of Peace" (c. 1750)		
Required	The Declaration of Independence (1776)		
Required	Articles of Confederation (1777)		
Required	Northwest Ordinance (1787)		
Required	Constitution of the United States		
Required	The Federalist Papers (1787-1788)		
Required	Smith, The Wealth of Nations (1776)		
Required	Owen, "Discourses" (1825)		
Required	from De Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1835)		
Required	"Declaration of Rights & Sentiments" (1848)		
Required	Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)		
Required	Stephens, "Cornerstone Speech" (1861)		
Required	Lincoln, The Emancipation Proclamation (1863)		

Required	Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address (1863)
Required	The Reconstruction Amendments (1865-1870)
Required	Chief Joseph, "An Indian's View on Indian Affairs" (1879)
Required	from Riis, How the Other Half Lives (1890) [images]
Required	from Turner, "The Sig. of the Frontier" (1893)
Required	DuBois, "Returning Soldiers" (1919)
Required	Roosevelt, "The Four Freedoms" (1941) [audio]
Required	Nixon, "The Kitchen Debate" (1959) [audio/visual]
Required	Hernandez v. Texas (1954)
Required	The Port Huron Statement (1962)
Required	King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (1963)
Required	from Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (1963)
Required	selections of protest music [audio]
Required	Schlaflly, "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women" (1972)
Required	Carter, "Crisis of Confidence" (1979) [audio/visual]
Required	Reagan, First Inaugural Address (1981) [audio/visual]
Required	Buchanan, "Address to the RNC" (1992) [audio/visual]
Required	Bush, State of the Union (2002) [audio/visual]
Required	OpenStax - U.S. History (Open Resource Textbook)

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

Course Schedule

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
10/19	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) The Declaration of Independence (1776) OpenStax - Chapters 1,4-6	Module 1: Origins of the United States	Feedback Fruits #1 - Declaration of Independence Comparative Source Analysis #1 Primary Source Analysis #1



10/26	Articles of Confederation (1777) Northwest Ordinance (1787) Constitution of the United States The Federalist Papers (1787-1788) OpenStax - Chapters 6-8	Module 2: Revolutionary Governments	Comparative Source Analysis #2a Comparative Source Analysis #2b Primary Source Analysis #2a Primary Source Analysis #2b
11/2	Smith, The Wealth of Nations (1776) Owen, "Discourses" (1825) from De Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1835) "Declaration of Rights & Sentiments" (1848) Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857) OpenStax - Chapters 9-13	Module 3: Economic Transformations	Feedback Fruits #2 - Declaration of Sentiments & Resolutions vs. Dred Scott v. Sandford Comparative Source Analysis #3 Primary Source Analysis #3
11/9	Stephens, "Cornerstone Speech" (1861) Lincoln, The Emancipation Proclamation (1863) Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address (1863) The Reconstruction Amendments (1865-1870) Chief Joseph, "An Indian's View on Indian Affairs" (1879) OpenStax - Chapters 14-18	Module 4: Union and Liberty in Crisis	Feedback Fruits #3 - Gettysburg Address & Emancipation Proclamation Comparative Source Analysis #4 Primary Source Analysis 4a Primary Source Analysis #4b
11/16	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] OpenStax - Chapters 22,25-28	Module 5: Democracy at Home and Abroad	Feedback Fruits #4 Comparative Source Analysis #5 Primary Source Analysis #5 Final Exam (1st attempt)
11/23	Hernandez v. Texas (1954) The Port Huron Statement (1962) King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (1963) from Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (1963) selections of protest music [audio] OpenStax - Chapters 28 & 29	Module 6: Pursuit of the American Promise	Comparative Source Analysis #6 Primary Source Analysis #6
11/30	Schlaflly, "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] OpenStax - Chapters 30-32	Module 7: Modern America	Comparative Source Analysis #7 Primary Source Analysis #7 Final Exam (2nd attempt)

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.