

HIST 96.20 Seminar Debating Democracy in Nineteenth Century America

Instructor: Leslie Butler

This seminar examines the ideas and practices of American democracy as the moment of its emergence. After an initial couple weeks defining our terms and orienting ourselves in the larger context of modern democracy, our readings and discussions will consider such key issues as: expansions and contractions in voting rights; the role of public opinion; the place of minorities in majoritarian government; the tensions between American democracy and American slavery; and the contested debates over the citizenship of women and African Americans. In addition to completing all course readings and participating in seminar discussions, students will conduct independent research and write an extended paper on a particular issue, moment, or debate in the history of nineteenth-century American democracy. The independent research project is the key component of the course and will be well-integrated into the seminar throughout the term.

Distributive and/or World Culture

Dist:TMV; WCult:W

Offered

16F 18W: 10A

Department-Specific Course Categories

Major Dist: US & CAN