

# HON 321H: Forging a Democracy

Professor Kathleen Donohue

T/Th 9:30-10:45 a.m.

#22223289

This course focuses on three critical moments in the development of American democracy, the American Revolution in 1775, the intense debates over secession in 1861 and the battle over labor's and women's rights in 1913. During each of these moments, Americans were forced to think about what democracy means and who should be allowed to participate in it. In this course, however, you won't just read about these moments. You will live them. You will be transported back to Revolutionary New York where you will take on the role of a loyalist, a patriot, a colonial woman, or a slave and battle for control of the city. Eighty-six years later, you will be in Lexington, Kentucky, where you will be thrown into the center of the secession debate and engage in all manner of political intrigue as you plot to deliver Kentucky to your supporters, be they ardent unionists or fire-eating secessionists. And after the passage of another fifty years you will take up residence in Greenwich Village where you will become a suffragist, a Wobbler organizer or a Bohemian intellectual, attend the Armory Art Show and debate Marxism and feminism in Mable Dodge's Salon.

Taking on such roles requires preparation. You will pour over maps of New York City and Kentucky and analyze the speeches and writings of numerous historical figures, among them John Locke, Thomas Paine, Abraham Lincoln, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Emma Goldman. You will give speeches of your own, perhaps an impassioned plea for the rights of female textile workers, an urgent appeal to the inhabitants of New York City to remain loyal to King George or an ardent defense of the rights of slaveholders. You will watch clips from popular movies such as *John Adams*, *1776*, *Reds* and Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*. You will write extensively, be it newspaper articles, petitions or even a review of an art show. By the end of this course, you will not only have a deep knowledge and understanding of three pivotal moments in American history, all of which were instrumental in defining what it means to be an American citizen. You will also have greatly improved your researching, reading, writing, leadership, teamwork and analytical skills.



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