

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Summer Quarter 2024

A Republic, If You Can Keep It

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Kendall Sharp	COURSE LENGTH: Ten Weeks DATES: June 12 to August 21 No class June 19	Remote Course
EMAIL: krsharp@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Wednesday TIMES: 9:30am to 12:45pm	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC 70253 24U1 PREREQUISITES: None

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Thus was Ben Franklin's quip in response to a query from a curious citizen as to what the Constitutional Convention had come up with. The American Founders were very cognizant of the poor track record of republics and the risks they were asking the new American nation to undertake. The issues remain with us. The topic of this course is a twist on something one sees frequently in the popular press: can an authoritarian turn fatally undermine democracy in the present-day US? In other words, can it happen here? Authors to be read come from the four-year Basic Program core curriculum, including: Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison in the Federalist Papers, Alexis de Tocqueville. We shall also read an essay by Max Weber, and quite possibly discuss the movie, *All the King's Men*, in conjunction with Basic Program Movie Nights.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. All texts will be provided in PDF on the course Canvas site. All but two of the selections will be found in the books students purchased for the Basic Program core curriculum.

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 June 12	Thucydides	Book 1, chapters 126-127 Book 8, chapters 63-98
WEEK 2 June 26	Plato	<i>Republic</i> , Book 8 and 9, to 580c
WEEK 3 July 3	Aristotle	<i>Politics</i> , Book Five
WEEK 4 July 10	Machiavelli	<i>Discourses on Livy</i> , Book I, Chapters 2,7,40, 44; Book III, Chapter 1 and 3
WEEK 5 July 17	Hobbes	<i>Leviathan</i> selections TBD
WEEK 6 July 24	Locke	<i>Second Treatise of Civil Government</i> : paragraphs 1,3,4-8,19-24,10,12,14,24-26,34,37-39 (9 pages), Chapters XIII, XIV, XVII - XIX
WEEK 7 July 31	"Publius" (Hamilton/Madison)	<i>Federalist Papers</i> #10, 15, 16
WEEK 8 August 7	"Publius" (Hamilton/Madison)	<i>Federalist Papers</i> #47, 48
WEEK 9 August 14	Tocqueville	<i>Democracy in America</i> , Volume 2, Part 4
WEEK 10 August 21	Weber	"Politics as a Vocation"

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.