

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Summer Quarter 2024

Freedom and Equality in the New World

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Kendall Sharp	COURSE LENGTH: Three Weeks DATES: September 3 - 17	Remote Course
EMAIL: krsharp@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Tuesday TIMES: 9:30am – 12:45pm	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC 80040 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

Come read three texts concerning freedom and equality in the New World that will, in their individual ways, expand our ideas of what exactly the “Western tradition” says about who has freedom and self-government. First, Bartolomé de Las Casas argues (in advance of the Valladolid Debates of the 1550s) that Spain ought not conquer and enslave the natives precisely because they are fully political societies in the sense of Aristotle’s *Politics*. Next, we read Frances Parkman’s evidence and argument that the Native Americans of North America during the colonial era governed themselves using republican forms reminiscent of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Finally, W.E.B. Dubois argues that the U.S. Civil War was won largely by the enslaved, who deployed and withheld their labor strategically in order to tip the balance toward the U.S. only when it became clear that a Union victory would indeed mean abolition.

REQUIRED TEXTS: PDFs of all readings will be provided on Canvas site for the course.

1. Casas, Barolomé de Las Casas. *In Defense of the Indians*. Northern Illinois University Press. ISBN 978-0875805566.
2. Parkman, Frances. *The Jesuits in North America*, in: *France and England in North America: Volume One*. Library of America. ISBN 978-0-94045010-3.
3. Du Bois, W.E.B. *Black Reconstruction. An Essay Toward A History of the Part Which Black Folk Played in the Attempt to Reconstruct Democracy in America, 1860-1880*. Harcourt, Brace and Company. No ISBN because too old and out of print.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 September 3	de Las Casas	Preliminaries, pp. 3-22 The <i>Defense</i> , Ch. 1-5, pp. 25-53
WEEK 2 September 10	Parkman	Preface, pp. 343-343 Introduction: "Native Tribes," 345-402
WEEK 3 September 17	Du Bois	"The General Strike," pp. 55-83

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 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.