



Teaching America 250

Course Syllabus

Course Description

What do a revolutionary tea party, a handwritten declaration, a student-led protest, and a community service project have in common? They're all part of the 250-year journey of America's core values—in action! In this hands-on, minds-on course, students will explore the bold ideas that sparked a nation and trace how those values have been challenged, expanded, and reimagined from 1776 to today. Through interactive simulations, creative projects, historical deep-dives, and modern-day connections, learners will investigate how these foundational values live on—not just in documents, but in daily decisions and civic action.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in U.S. History. It's a celebration of who we are, how far we've come, and the powerful role each of us plays in shaping what comes next. Because when we understand our values, we don't just study history—we make it.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify and analyze key American values as they appear in foundational documents and historical movements.
2. Explain the historical development of values in the U.S. and their evolving interpretations.
3. Analyze how core American values relate to current issues in the United States.
4. Evaluate how constructive disagreement and informed activism sustain democracy and advance justice and equality by applying fact-checking strategies to identify and counter misinformation and by analyzing case studies that connect student activism to core American values.

Modules

- Module 1: Core Values—Foundations for Individuals, Communities, and a Nation, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Living Our Values—Democracy, Equality, Justice, and Liberty in Action, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Investigating Our Communities—American Values in Action Today, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Strengthening American Values in the Modern Era, Quiz 4

Grading

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).



Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.