

PHIL 112 section 80, "American Philosophy"
Asynchronous (No regularly scheduled meetings in person or online)
Fully Online
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According to experts, there has been a steady increase of hostility toward “democracy” at the global level. Since its inception, America has touted itself as the greatest expression of democracy the world has ever known. And the American pragmatist, John Dewey, claimed “[d]emocracy has to be born anew every generation” and that “democracy is more than a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living.” If true, contemporary Americans are burdened with giving birth to a new mode of democratic life under increasingly hostile conditions. What, then, could be more important than a critical examination of the essential features of democracy in the tradition of American philosophy? This course will do just that! It will critically engage perspectives on democracy within and around the intellectual tradition of American pragmatism. This course will allow students to form their own conceptions of what their democratic way of life *should be*, by gaining an understanding of what it *can be!*

Some readings for this course will (probably) include:

“Democracy or Militarism” by Jane Addams

“Democracy is Radical” by John Dewey

Selections from *Color and Democracy: Colonies and Peace* by W.E.B. Du Bois

Selections from *Democracy Matters* by Cornel West

... and more ...

Prerequisites: 3 units of philosophy or upper division standing

