



What is an American?

Class 1 – Introduction

Class schedule

Class	Theme
3/22	Introduction The <u>Adverts 250 Project</u> with Assumption students and Professor Carl Keyes
Note: no class meeting on 3/29	
4/5	Becoming America
4/12	Immigration and Reconstruction with Professor Brendan O'Malley
4/19	The American century
4/26	Worcester is America



About yours truly

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- Readings and presentations at <http://queenlake.com/wise/wise-spring-2018/what-is-an-american/>



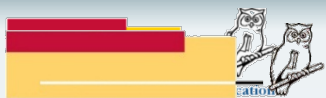
Readings

Class	Topics	Primary Readings
1	Introduction	Professor Carl Keyes and his Assumption students will discuss the Adverts 250 Project .
2	Becoming America	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letters from an American Farmer, Letter 3 - What is an American? Complete text in various forms or Letter 3 only by J. Hector St. John Crevecoeur• Democracy in America, Volume 1, Chapter IV: The Principle Of The Sovereignty Of The People In America, Alexis de Tocqueville• Second Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln
3	Where did my America go?	Immigration in America with Professor Brendan O'Malley
4	The American Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frederick Jackson Turner. Chapter 3, "The Significance of The Frontier in American History"• The Souls of Black Folks, W.E.B. DuBois (Chapter 2, "Of the Dawn of Freedom")
5	Worcester is America	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It's Complicated -- the social lives of networked teens, danah boyd
We'll add some additional readings for classes 3, 4, and 5.		



About the class

- Our thinking will engage multiple levels, often simultaneously
 - Personal – “What does it mean for me to be an American?”
 - Group – “What does it mean for me and others to be hyphenated-Americans?”
 - Political – “What does it mean to be a citizen?”
 - Historical – “What did Americans in the past think about being American?”
- No gotcha history (or as little as possible)





When a town becomes “minority majority.”

[As America Changes, Some Anxious Whites Feel Left Behind](#), by Michele Norris

What then is the American, this new man? He is either an European, or the descendant of an European, hence that strange mixture of blood, which you will find in no other country...Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men, whose labours and posterity will one day cause great changes in the world.

**J. Hector St. John Crevecoeur –
Letters from an American Farmer, Letter 3**

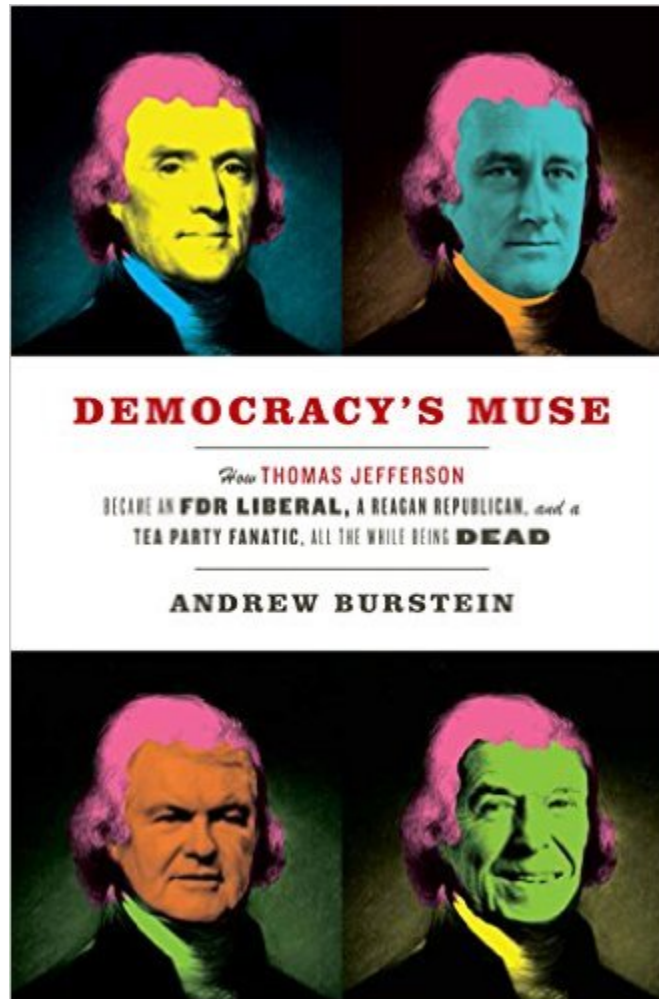
Google books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases: case-insensitive

between and from the corpus with smoothing of



The American Dream is a 20th Century notion



Historical characters as a Rorschach test

Sloop Tryal,	J. Sawyer,	North-Carolina,	
Schooner Patty,	J. Jones,	Antigua,	
Brigantine Juno,	J. Warden,	Jamaica,	

Just imported in the PENNSYLVANIA PACKET, Captain
OSBORN, from LONDON, by

JOHN GOLDSMITH **CARNAN,**
& JEWELLER,

AT THE
GOLDEN LION,

The Corner of SECOND and CHESTNUT STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA,

A NEAT ASSORTMENT of Crystal, paste, new
composition, faïence, Tortoiseshell and horn combs,
silver and Pinchbeck watches,

The Adverts 250 Project

My brain hurts!



Questions?