

Syllabus

Reading US History, Jill Lepore, *These Truths: A History of the United States* PART 2
Coordinator: Michael Stevens. michaelstevens50@gmail.com 608-215-4887
Google Meet, Mondays, 9:30 am-11:30 am. March 6 through April 24, 2023.

This course offers reading and discussion of some of the best writing on American history. This is the second part of a course begun in fall 2022 in which we will read and discuss the second half (1866-2017) of Jill Lepore's highly acclaimed history of the United States. It takes its title from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident." In a narrative filled with "verve, wit, range, and insights," Lepore tells stories and introduces us to people who help us discuss her central question: when has America succeeded and when has it failed to live up to those "self-evident truths"?

Priority in admission will be given to those who have already read and discussed chapters 1-8 in Part 1.

All sessions will be held online. Participants should obtain a copy of the book and come prepared to discuss Chapter 9 at our March 6 session.

Buy or borrow a copy of Jill Lepore's, *These Truths: A History of the United States*. Paperbacks and e-books are widely available in book stores and on Amazon, and hardcovers can frequently be found in used book stores. The South Central Library System also has 34 copies.

How to participate

To join the group contact me at michaelstevens50@gmail.com

Do readings before each class (1 chapter each week)—not so much to overwhelm anyone—but long enough to allow a close discussion of the topics. **Read and be ready to participate in a lively discussion of Chapter 9 prior to the March 6 class.**

I will email a Google Meet notice every week with the link. Just click on the link and request to join the meeting. I will let you in. Desktop computer or laptop are preferred. No special software required, but if you are using a tablet or iPad, it's best to download the Google Meet app from the Apple Store or Google Play.

March 6	Chapter 9, Of Citizens, Persons, and People
March 13	Chapter 10, Efficiency and the Masses
March 20	Chapter 11, A Constitution of the Air
March 27	Chapter 12, The Brutality of Modernity
April 3	Chapter 13, A World of Knowledge
April 10	Chapter 14, Rights and Wrongs
April 17	Chapter 15, Battle Lines
April 24	Chapter 16, America Disrupted; Epilogue, The Question Addressed