

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University

For Curriculum Committee use		
Semester(s) this course was previously offered:	Proposal Number:	S11-09

COURSE PROPOSAL

Please complete this form with the understanding that you may revise the course description and topics before the catalog is finalized. To see a catalog from last semester, go to the OLLI at ISU Web site: http://www.isualum.org/en/olli_at_isu/

If you are completing this form using Microsoft Word, note that it is done in tables form. To see (or to hide) the gridlines, click the Table menu and click Show Gridlines (or Hide Gridlines).

1. **Course title:** Classics of American Literature—Democracy in America, Vol. 1

2. **General field of interest** (e.g., Science, Music): History

3. **Curriculum Committee contact person:** Clair Keller

Address: 304 E. O'Neil Drive City: Ames Zip: 50010

Phone: 515-232-1282 E-mail: cwmfkeller@isunet.net

4. **Instructor or coordinator:** Bennett Smith

Address: 2214 S. Lakeview Dr. City: Clear Lake Zip: 50428

Phone: 651-271-5267 E-mail: Crusoe29@hotmail.com

Brief background of instructor (all or part of this will be used in the catalog):

Bennett Smith is a property manager in Clear Lake, Iowa. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Communication from Iowa State University, and a Masters degree from Colorado Christian University in Biblical Counseling. He has also done graduate work at Dallas Theological Seminary in Christian Education, and at the University of Iowa in Social Foundations of Education.

He has taught courses in the Lifelong Learning Program at North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) in Mason City, Iowa, on *Thomas Paine*, *Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin* as part of a series called American Leaders. He has also led discussion groups in a series called Classics of American Literature, which has read *The Federalist Papers*, *Democracy in America*, and *Walden*. Bennett has a passion for literature, and the impact it can have on our lives and communities.

5. **Course description** that can be used to advertise the course in the catalog (you may revise this later if you wish).

Classics of American Literature is a series that looks at some of the books that have had a profound influence on American history, culture and politics. Works like *Common Sense* [1776], *The Federalist Papers* [1788], *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* [1791], *Democracy in America* [1835], *Uncle Tom's Cabin* [1852] and *Walden* [1854], are central to our understanding of American institutions, history, politics and culture, and have stood the test of time.

This discussion group focuses on, *Democracy in America*, by Alexis de Tocqueville. Long regarded as a classic, this work will be our focus for the next 5 weeks. The edition we will use is published by Penguin Classics, with an introduction by Professor Isaac Kramnik. The book is divided into two volumes, and this course will focus on *Volume I*. In the fall, a course on *Volume II* will be offered. Students are encouraged to go ahead and purchase the book and read the introduction before the first meeting of the course. The first meeting will be an introductory lecture on the major themes of the book to give students an overview of *Volume I*.

6. Specific topics to be covered in the number of classes proposed:

This paragraph should be on page 2. If you needed more space than was provided on page 1, this paragraph will have moved to page 3. To move it back to page 2, click before the first word of this paragraph and press Backspace to remove the page break.

7. Preferred

class size: 15 or less 16-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 55 or more

8. Preferred session

(include year) : Sept.-Nov. Jan.-Feb. March-May

9. Preferred number of weeks and sessions:

4 weeks 5 6 weeks 8 weeks
 Once a week Twice a week

10. Check preferred class time. Put N/A where you are not available.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Comments
9:00-10:30					Date: March 22 nd , April 5 th , 19 th May 3 rd , 10 th Time: 3:00- 5:00 p.m. Location: Horton Conference Room
11:00-12:30					
1:00-2:30					
3:00-4:30		X			

11. Recommended textbook (if any): Democracy in America, Penguin Classics

Where to obtain: Amazon.com

Cost of textbook: \$9.60

Students will pay: Instructor OLLI at ISU when registering

12. Copying:

If a large quantity of printed materials is proposed, materials may be offered as a packet to be handed out at the beginning of the semester. Cost of printing, if substantial, may be added to cost of course.

Estimated number of pages to be copied for each session: _____

13. Requested equipment

Please check choices. (A more detailed form will be provided for your use before classes begin.)

DVD player LCD projector 35mm slide projector
 VHS player Elmo (opaque) projector Lapel microphone
 CD player Overhead transparency projector Laser pointer

14. Please list any potential guest presenters and city in which they live:

15. Is travel reimbursement requested? Yes No