

SOSC 184-185-186

Democracy: Equality, Liberty, and the Limits of Self-Governance

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THIS SEQUENCE?

Students can expect to study democratic theory and the evolution of liberty and self-governance over time. Each quarter has a different temporal focus, moving from ancient democracies to colonial revolution and then to the contemporary age.



WHO MIGHT BENEFIT FROM TAKING DEMOCRACY?

- Students who want to consider democracy not only as political regime but as a kind of social order and set of relationships
- Students interested in the fundamentals of independent inquiry including library research and intellectual habits essential to democratic citizenship

"I learned that my most immediate beliefs of what democracy is and what it should be are heavily intertwined with liberalism. This sequence challenges preconceived notions of what it means for "the people" to rule at the door and the implications that has on liberty and both domestic and foreign governmental affairs."

- Caden Nixt '26



STUDENT TAKEAWAY

WHAT MAKES DEMOCRACY DIFFERENT?

- Evaluates how assertions of self-governance and equal liberty amid imbalances of social and political power has produced unequal outcomes and other unintended consequences
- Considers the historical developments that have led to the current global democratic crisis.