



Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government

A Three-Part Lecture Series

From British America to the United States of America

September 13 – October 18

A More Perfect Union: The Constitution of the United States

November 1 – December 6

The Bill of Rights and Guarantees of Liberty

January 17 – February 28

Featuring Orange County Professors

Dr. Jo Ellen Chatham

Concordia University, Irvine

Dr. Volker Janssen

Cal State University, Fullerton

Lisa Matthews

Concordia University, Irvine

Dr. Bryan Santin

Concordia University, Irvine

Dr. Robert Robinson

Cal State University, Fullerton

Tuesday Nights at 6 pm in Theater 37

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

18001 Yorba Linda Blvd, Yorba Linda, 92886

Lectures will also be live streamed at www.youtube.com/RichardNixonLibrary

Lecture Series and parking are free to the public.

Face coverings are required when Orange County is experiencing HIGH COVID-19 community transmission levels.

For questions, email nixoneducation@nara.gov or call 714-983-9296.

Presented by

National Archives and Records Administration &
Center for Civics Education at Concordia University Irvine

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Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government

From British America to the United States of America

America's story began more than 400 years ago with firm support from the King of England. Less than two centuries later, appeals to ancient English rights were actually used against English rule and a new country was born – free and independent. America's story is your story - it is your inheritance.

- September 13 "From London to Jamestown and the Roots of American Discontent" – Jo Ellen Chatham
- September 20 "The Die is Cast: The Declaration of Independence" – Lisa Matthews
- September 27 "The Articles of Confederation: Disunity in the Union" – Volker Janssen
- October 4 "A New Constitution for a More Perfect Union" – Jo Ellen Chatham
- October 11 "Ratifying the New Constitution: Why Did Patriot Pat Henry Oppose Ratification?" - Bryan Santin
- October 18 "The First Congress: Inventing a New Government" – Jo Ellen Chatham

A More Perfect Union: The Constitution of the United States

The Constitution is more than a symbol – it is "the Supreme Law of the Land!" It puts "We the People" in charge. That's us! Are you prepared to play your part?

- November 1 "The Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land...Until it Isn't" – Lisa Matthews
- November 8 "Congress: The 'First Branch of Government'" – Jo Ellen Chatham
- November 15 "Congress: It Can Do This, But Not That!" – Jo Ellen Chatham
- November 22 "The Presidency...and the President" – Robert Robinson
- November 29 "The President and All the President's Men" – Bryan Santin
- December 6 "The Judges and the Constitution: Do They Really Have the Last Word?" – Volker Janssen

The Bill of Rights and Guarantees of Liberty

More than 11,500 amendments to the Constitution have been proposed, but only twenty-seven have been ratified. One was even rescinded! But they protect your freedoms of speech and religion, trial by a jury, voting rights and even how we elect the President. If they changed the Constitution, you need to know why.

- January 17 "No Bill of Rights - No Constitution! – Did It Matter?" – Jo Ellen Chatham
- January 24 "The First Amendment: Our Freedoms to Speak, Assemble, Print and Petition the Government" – Robert Robinson
- January 31 "The First Amendment: Our Freedom to Worship, or Not" – Bryan Santin
- February 7 "A Bunch of Other Amendments, But They Count!" – Jo Ellen Chatham
- a. Bearing Arms
 - b. Quartering Soldiers
 - c. Unreasonable Searches and Seizures
 - d. Protections in Trials
 - e. More Protections in Trials
 - f. Even More Protections in Trials

- February 21 "At Long Last and Great Sacrifice: The Civil War Amendments" – Volker Janssen
- February 28 "Amendment Mania: Expansion of Rights (and One Repeal!)" – Jo Ellen Chatham