



How Progressive Can You Really Be?

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Fieldston Is A Progressive High School By Three Measures

- The Role Of Students In School Life
- The Role Of Faculty In Decision-Making
- Its Curriculum And Pedagogy





The Role Of Students In School Life

- With Minimal Adult Supervision, Students Run An Astonishing Variety Of Clubs



Here Is The Club List

For 2011-2012

- ACAPELLA CLUB
- A.S.I.A.
- BLAM!
- BUILD ON: ZUMANI CLUB
- CHARITY WATER AT FIELDSTON
- CMA CLUB
- COMPOSITION CLUB
- CURRENT EVENTS CLUB
- DEBATE CLUB AND TEAM
- DIASPORA
- DISABILITY RIGHTS CLUB
- DOPE INK PRINTS
- EAGLE LENZ
- ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB
- FIELDSTON CHESS CLUB
- FIELDSTON COMEDY NEWSPAPER
- FIELDSTON CONSERVATIVES CLUB
- FIELDSTON GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE
- FIELDSTON IMPROVEMENT CLUB
- FIELDSTON NEWS
- FIELDSTON STOREFRONT PARTNERSHIP
- FINANCIAL LITERACY CLUB
- FREE THE CHILDREN
- GAME THEORY CLUB
- GIRLUP
- GOOD MUSIC CLUB
- HARRY POTTER CLUB
- HATS AND HANDS
- HOT BREAD
- IMPROV COMEDY CLUB





Here Is The Club List For 2011-2012

- INVESTORS CLUB
- LALELA CLUB
- LIT MAG
- THE LP
- MALARIA NO MORE
- MATHLETES
- MOBILE COMPUTING CLUB
- MODEL UNITED NATIONS
- NRDC CLUB
- OUTDOORING CLUB
- PING PONG CLUB
- RELAY FOR LIFE
- ROBIN HOOD CLUB
- SAC
- SEEDS OF PEACE
- SIMPSONS CLUB
- STUDENTS FOR HAITIAN AID
- SUME
- TECHICAL THEATER CLUB
- TOMS SHOES CLUB
- VOLLEYBALL CLUB
- YEARBOOK: FIELDGLASS
- YOGA CLUB



- Affinity Clubs, Philanthropic Clubs, And Political Action Clubs Are The Best Organized And Most Engaged Clubs At Fieldston



Here Is A List Of Those Clubs:

- A.S.I.A.
- CHARITY WATER AT FIELDSTON
- CURRENT EVENTS CLUB
- DIASPORA
- DISABILITY RIGHTS CLUB
- ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB
- FIELDSTON CONSERVATIVES CLUB
- FIELDSTON GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE
- FIELDSTON IMPROVEMENT CLUB
- FIELDSTON STOREFRONT PARTNERSHIP
- FREE THE CHILDREN
- GIRLUP
- HATS AND HANDS
- HOT BREAD
- LALELA CLUB
- MALARIA NO MORE
- RELAY FOR LIFE
- ROBIN HOOD CLUB
- SEEDS OF PEACE
- STUDENTS FOR HAITIAN AID
- SUME



- Under The Supervision Of The Dean Of Students, These Clubs Run A Significant Number Of Upper School Assemblies



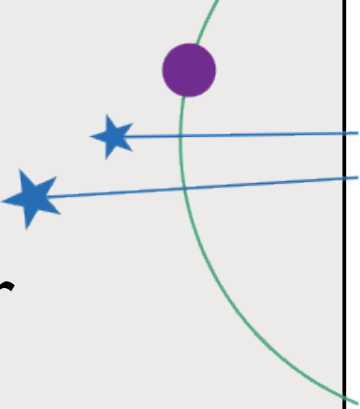
Here Is A List Of Those 2011-2012 Assemblies:

- September 15: Unions and Labor
- September 22: Innocence Project
- October 20: GirlUp
- October 27: Latino Heritage
- November 10: Disability Rights
- November 17: Fall MAD: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*
- December 1: Religion, Culture and Fieldston
- January 5: Gay Straight Alliance
- January 19: MLK Assembly
- February 9: Spring MAD
- February 16: Gender Roundtable: *Misrepresentation*
- February 23: Black History Month
- April 5: A.S.I.A.
- April 19: Earth Day
- April 26: Community Day



- The Leaders Of Those Clubs Also Regularly Facilitate Post-Assembly Small Group Discussions Of The Issues Raised In Those Assemblies



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- Several Times A Year Fieldston Upper School Suspends Or Modifies The Normal Daily Schedule To Engage A Variety Of Issues
 - Club Leaders Play A Major Role In The Shaping Of These Special Days: MADs (Modified Awareness Day), FADs (Fieldston Awareness Day), And Community Day



- These Assemblies And Special Days
Constitute An Upper School-Wide
Curriculum With A Particular Focus On
Diversity And Community

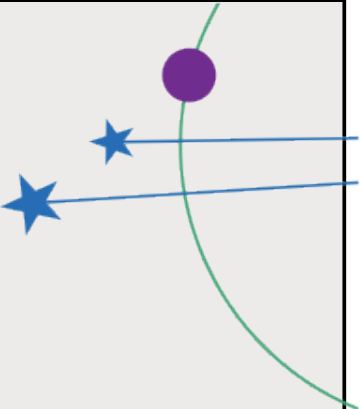


- By Dint Of Fieldston's Being An Independent School In New York City With A Progressive Reputation, There Is A Decidedly Leftward Tilt To This Curriculum, Which Could Present Problems For Other School Communities



- Students Also Serve On The Curriculum Committee, The Discipline Committee, And On Student Advisory Committees In The Hiring Of The Class Deans, The Dean Of Students, The Principal, And Other Administrators

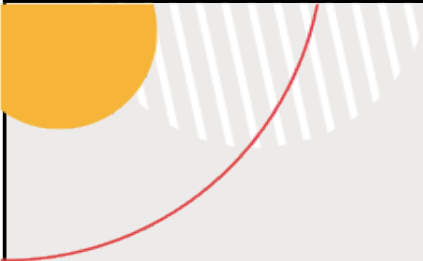
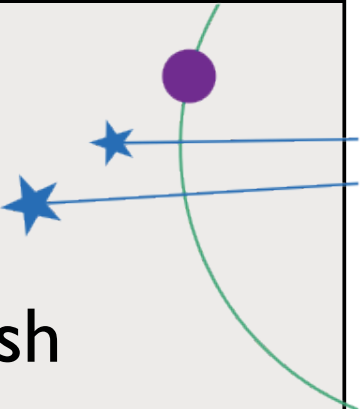




The Role Of Faculty In Decision-Making

- Unlike The Situation At Most Independent Schools, Fieldston Faculty Are Unionized, And Their Contract Covers Work Rules As Well As Compensation And Retention



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- Although Contracts Clearly Distinguish Them, In Upper School Operations A Blurry Line Exists Between Faculty And Administration
 - Many Upper School Folks With Significant Administrative Responsibilities Are On Faculty Contracts, Most Notably Department Chairs And Class Deans



- The Principal, The Assistant Principal, And The Dean Of Students Teach As Much As Or More Than Many People On Faculty Contracts
- The Principal And Assistant Principal Regularly Delegate Much Of Their Hiring Authority To Department Chairs And Their Departments

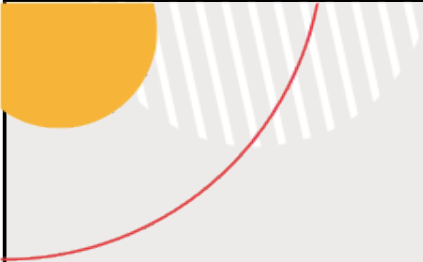
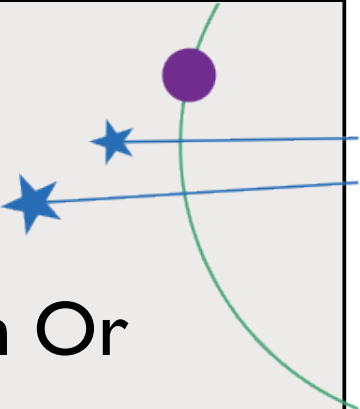


- Department Chairs Are The Primary Evaluators Of Probationary Teachers, With The Principal And Assistant Principal Playing Major Roles When Termination Is A Likely Outcome




- Except In The Area Of Retention/
Termination, Department Chairs
Operate By Consensus In Departmental
Discussions Of Curriculum, Pedagogy,
And Administrative Matters



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- The Several Teachers Of Multi-Section Or Other “Core” Courses Determine By Consensus The Curriculum Of Those Courses
 - Teachers Of Elective Courses Have A Great Deal Of Autonomy In Determining The Curriculum And Pedagogy Of Those Courses

- We'll Discuss How Outside Influences Shape These Discussions And Influence The Faculty And Administration When We Move On To The Third Progressive Marker—Curriculum And Pedagogy



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- Through Class Deans And The Learning Center Department, Upper School Devotes Significant Resources To Individual Student Needs
 - Faculty Also Constitute A Majority On The Discipline Committee, The Diversity Committee, And The Student Support Group, All Of Which Play Key Roles In The Area Of Student Life And Student Support





Faculty Advisors

- The Vast Majority Of Upper School Faculty Also Serve As Advisors To Students, And That Is An Absolute Game-Changer

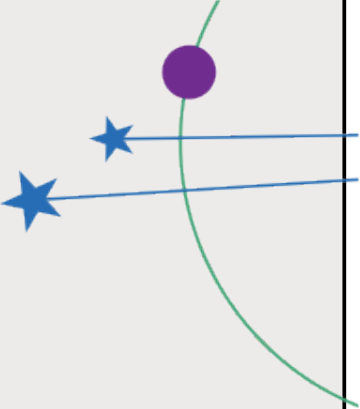


- At Fieldston An Advisor Advises A Group Of Up To Twelve Students In A Single Grade, Usually Starting With Them In Grade Nine And Seeing Them Through To Graduation



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- As Students Cycle Into And Out Of Their Classes From One Year To The Next, This Advisor Relationship Is A Constant That Faculty Members Cherish
 - They Serve As Advisors Despite Work Rules That Make Advising An Irrational Choice



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- The Advisor Relationship Gives A Teacher An Invaluable “Whole Child” Perspective
 - The Form Dean And A Team Of Advisors Becomes An Important Working Group Around The Students In A Given Graduating Class



- Advisors Are Also Helpful Contacts For Parents Across A Wide Range Of Issues





Curriculum And Pedagogy

- NYSAIS, The School's Accrediting Agency, Gives Independent Schools Wide Latitude Over Curriculum And Pedagogy

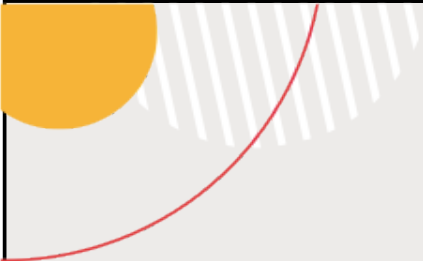




- By Forgoing Federal And State Funding, Fieldston Has Little Government Accountability Of The Kind That Public Schools Must Reckon With



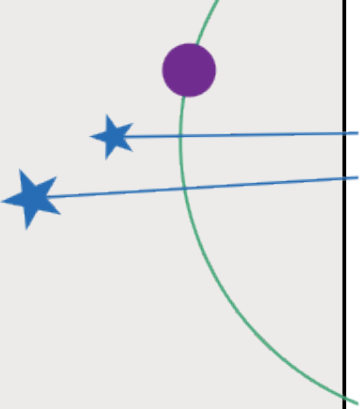
- College Admissions, As Measured By Graduates And Their Parents And Community Perception, Constitutes The Bottom Line Accountability For The Upper School's Academic Program, Curriculum, And Pedagogy



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- Fieldston Has No AP Courses, And Only A Small Number Of Seniors Take Any AP Exams, Almost Always In BC Calculus
 - Fieldston Students All Take Either SATs or ACTs, And Many Take SAT IIs In Anticipation Of What The Colleges To Which They Apply Will Require

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- Student And Parent Anxiety About Grades In The Major Departments—English, History, Language, Math, And Science—Colors Virtually Every Transaction Between Upper School Students And Teachers In Those Departments
 - Parents Drive Us Crazy With Grade Appeals And Requests To Overplace Their Children In Intensive Sections

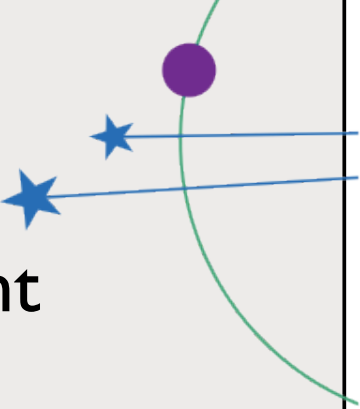




Self-Imposed Departmental Constraints

- The Upper School Math Department Considers Preparing Students For The Math SAT And SAT IIs A Primary Responsibility, And The Content Of Those Standardized Tests Significantly Influences The Upper School Math Curriculum



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- The Upper School History Department Offers A Three-Semester US History Sequence For The Many Students Who Elect To Take The SAT II In History
 - Many Upper School History Assessments, Notably Unit Tests And Data Based Questions, Anticipate The Types Of Questions That Appear On Content-Based Reading And History Standardized Tests



- Ninth Grade Biology Teachers Anticipate That Many Intensive Level Biology Students Will Take The SAT II In Biology, And Shape Their Curriculum To Some Degree With That SAT II In Mind



- The English Department Focusses On Close Reading And The Traditional Lit Crit Essay Often To The Exclusion Of Less Traditional Pedagogy

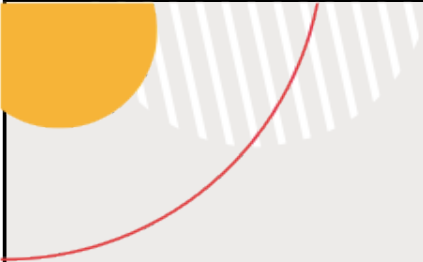





So How Is The Upper School Program Progressive?

- First And Foremost, The Upper School Invests Significant Resources And Upper School Students Invest Significant Time And Energy In Classes And Co-Curricular Pursuits About Which College Admissions Offices Could Care Less

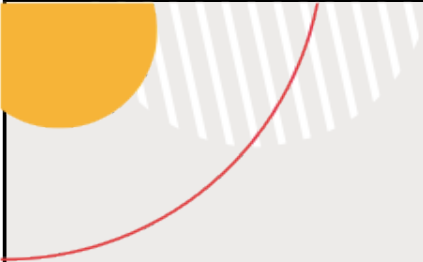


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- We Have A Music Department, A Theater And Dance Department, And A Visual Arts Department, With Minimal Graduation Requirements But A Wide Array Of Offerings, So That Nearly All Fieldston Graduates Significantly Exceed The Arts Requirement



- In Any Year Seventy Percent Of Upper Schoolers Play On At Least One Interscholastic Team, Few With Any College Potential



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- In Addition To Leadership Roles On Affinity And Political Action Clubs, About A Third Of The Students Engage In Community Service Far Above The Graduation Requirement
 - Robust Arts, Athletic, And Community Service Programs Are The Strongest Proofs Of Our Progressive Program



- Entrepreneurial Teachers Have Developed And The School Has Vetted, Approved, And Supported Interdisciplinary Courses Which Students May Elect And Which Visibly Depart From The “Regular” Departmental Sequence And Pre-College Focus





Here Is A List Of Some Of Those Courses In The Five Major Departments:

- Interdisciplinary Senior Seminar
- City Semester: The Bronx Experience
- Humanities IV: Freedom: An Interdisciplinary Inquiry
- Dramatic Literature And Theater
- Images And Words: Poetry, Painting, Landscape
- Page To Stage: Memoir, Autobiography, And Performance
- It's About Time: Literature And Physics
- The History Of Fieldston And Progressive Education
- Behind The Golden Door: Race, Class, Ethnicity, And Immigration





Here Is A List Of Some Of Those Courses In The Five Major Departments:

- The Art Of Democracy: Popular Culture In American History
- Banking On Poverty: Economics In The Developing World
- The Rise Of The Right In Contemporary America
- LP: Twelve Albums That Changed The World
- Inventing Gotham: New York City And The American Dream
- Revolucion: Latin American Social Movements
- Ethical Issues In Science
- Sustainability: Practical Ecology For The 21st Century
- Neuroscience



- Finally, Individual Teachers Have Carved Out Time In Their Curricula And Pedagogy For Traditional Pre-College Prep Work Versus More Progressive And Authentic Assignments And Assessments



- The Core Strategy For These Teachers Is To Carve Time To “Teach To The Test” Within A Curriculum That Aims Higher



Here Is A Sample Test In

Interdisciplinary Humanities:

Part I. Multiple Guess. Circle the Least Bad Answer. (60 points)

Which of the following statements is true of the first transcontinental railroad?

- It was supported by Republicans
- It was supported by Democrats
- It was finished using Chinese and Irish labor
- It was completed in 1869
- All of these statements are true of the first transcontinental RR

Which of the following statements is NOT true of Andrew Carnegie?

- He built libraries in the charming belief that people actually read books
- He defeated the labor union that went on strike against him
- He was an immigrant
- He was a Social Darwinist who considered charity counterproductive
- All these statements are true of Andrew Carnegie

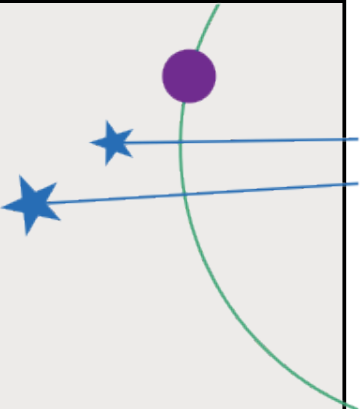
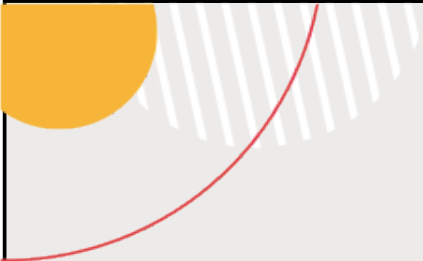
John D. Rockefeller

- Liked to listen to Common records
- Imposed order on a chaotic steel industry
- Imposed order on a chaotic oil industry
- Imposed order on a chaotic banking industry
- None of the above

Which of the following labor organizations was organized on a craft model?

- American Federation of Labor
- The Knights of Labor
- International Workers of the World (Wobblies)
- The Kei\$ha Fan Club
- None of these labor organizations was organized on a craft model





Which of the following was organized on an industrial (trans-craft) model?

- Coxe's Army
- American Railway Union
- The Nicki Minaj Fan Club
- The Grange
- None of the above

George Pullman was

- A neo-feudal capitalist
- A neo-industrial capitalist
- An anti-Darwinian capitalist
- A retro-Socialist
- A retro-metrosexual Darwinian

Eugene Debs was

- One hell of a nice guy
- A Lincoln-Republican turned Socialist
- A Socialist who hung out with Communists
- A free speech advocate who went to jail
- All of the above

The Populist movement was largely based

- In the South
- In the Mid-West
- In the Northeast
- In the Mid-West and South
- In the Northeast and Mid-West



William Jennings Bryan

- A Populist
- A Democrat
- A Democrat and a Populist
- A Populist and a Socialist
- All of the above

Which of the following statements best describes the Presidential Election of 1896?

- It was an election that demonstrated the strength of Goldbugs among the Populists
- It was an election that suggested latent Silverite tendencies in the Republican party
- It was an election that suggested new power for political fixers like Mark Hanna
- It was an election that showed the limits of Hanna's methods
- It was Mitt Romney's first campaign for President

The Progressive Movement

- Began with a series of presidential directives
- Created new opportunities for residential development of beach-front property in Florida
- Was characterized by a passive approach to social problems
- Sought to radically transform American society along a socialist model
- None of the above

•Theodore Roosevelt

- Sought the Senate seat of Stephen Douglas
- Liked to secretly don women's swimwear in cabinet meetings
- Passed the *Muller v. Oregon* Supreme Court Decision
- Founded the modern conservation movement
- Favored concentrating industrial power among a few corporations





Woodrow Wilson

- Was a close friend of Theodore Roosevelt (just like everyone else)
- Was a Progressive Democrat
- Was a Progressive Republican
- Was a Debsian Democrat
- Was a lesbian Democrat

Which of the following people did NOT run for president in 1912?

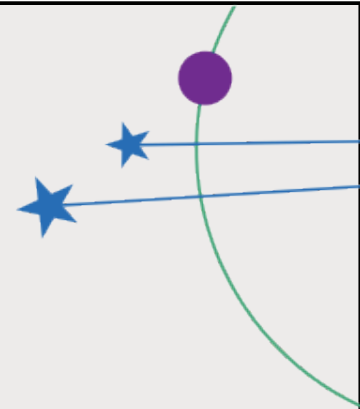
- Theodore Roosevelt
- Woodrow Wilson
- Howard Taft
- Eugene Debs
- All these people ran for President in 1912

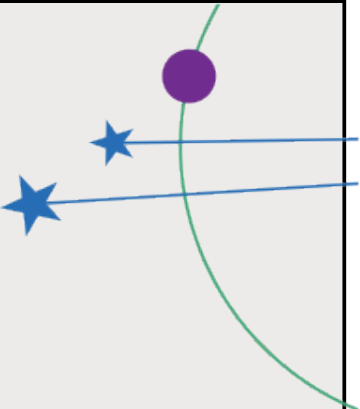
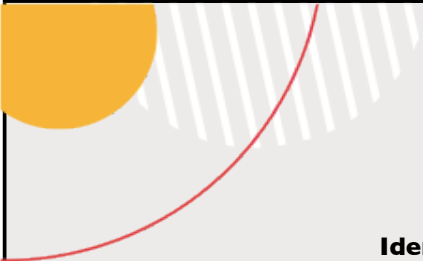
You know Fieldston is a good Progressive school because

- You never have to take multiple choice exams
- You always have to pretend you're paying attention
- You sometimes wonder if the place where people meet really *is* sacred ground
- You often eat Irish cuisine as part of the school's commitment to diversity
- Fieldston, in fact, was always never not a Progressive school

True or False? (15 points each)

- Eugene Debs denounced the First World War.
- The first major wave of immigration to the United States came from Southern Europe.
- Ellis Island refused more immigrants to the U.S. than Angel Island.
- The Great Railroad Strike was settled by arbitration in 1877.
- William Jennings Bryan once played bass for the Jesus Freaks, a techno-country band.





Identifications. Using no more than the remainder of this page, describe five of the following (25 points)

- The New Freedom
- Haymarket Riot
- Sherman Antitrust Act
- Sixteenth Amendment
- Seventeenth Amendment
- Federal Reserve
- Kim Kardashian





Here is the syllabus for this interdisciplinary course:

Form IV Interdisciplinary Humanities: The Meaning of Freedom:

Unit I. What is the relationship between freedom and tolerance?

- Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*
- Arthur Miller, *The Crucible*
- Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*

Contexts:

- The Protestant Reformation in North America, 1492-1763
- Communism, McCarthyism and the Cold War, 1917-1953
- Gay Liberation, 1969-present





Interlude: Thoreau, selections from *Walden*, “Civil Disobedience”; Emerson, “Self-Reliance”

Unit II: What is the relationship between freedom and independence?

- Frederick Douglass, *Autobiography*
- Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Contexts:

- The American Revolution and the Constitution

Unit III. What is the relationship between freedom and slavery?

- Toni Morrison, *A Mercy*
- Herman Melville, “Benito Cereno”
- Charles Fuller, *A Soldier’s Play*

Contexts:

- The Atlantic Slave trade, 1500-1750
- Slavery in the American Revolution, 1763-1783
- The Civil War Era, 1848-1877





Unit IV. What is the relationship between freedom and equality?

- August Wilson, *Fences*
- Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
- David Mamet, *Oleanna*

Contexts:

- The New Deal/World War II 1933-1945
- The Civil Rights Movement, 1954-present
- The Women's Movement, 1848-present

Unit V. What is the relationship between freedom and progress?

- E.L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- Thornton Wilder, *Skin Of Our Teeth*

Contexts:

- Darwinism and Social Darwinism, 1859-1900
- The Progressive Movement, 1900-1920
- The Birth and Growth of the Internet, 1969-present





Unit VI: What is the relationship between freedom and intervention?

- John Patrick Shanley, *Doubt*
- Clifford Odets, *Waiting For Lefty*
- John Steinbeck, *The Moon Is Down*

Contexts:

- Isolationism and World War II
- The Abortion Debate

