

People’s University, Week 3: Achievements: U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights
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Values

- Liberty
- Equality
- Democracy
- Anti-authoritarianism
- Rule of Law

Important Documents that help us to glean values

Declaration of Independence

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

United States Constitution

Preamble

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

United States Constitution

Articles I-III: define and limit powers of the federal government’s three branches.

- I. Legislative Branch
- II. Executive Branch
- III. Judicial Branch

Article IV: State treatment of other states

Article V: Amendment Process

Article VI: Supremacy Clause

Article VII: Ratification

The Amendments

1	religious freedom, separation of church and state; free speech, press, assembly; right to petition government	14	Due Process, Equal Protection
2	Right to bear arms	15	Right to vote (Black men)
3	Quartering soldiers	16	Individual income tax
4	Unreasonable searches and seizures	17	Direct election of U.S. Senators
5	Grand jury; due process; double jeopardy; self-incrimination; eminent domain	18/21	Prohibition Prohibition repealed

6	Criminal procedure—speedy & public trial, competent counsel, impartial jury	19	Right to vote (women)
7	Civil procedure—jury trial	20	Inauguration (1/20); Congress (1/3)
8	Cruel & unusual punishment ban	22	Presidential term limits
9	Unenumerated rights belong to the people	23	D.C. electors in the Electoral College
10	Unenumerated powers belong to the States and the people	24	Prohibits poll taxes and other voting prerequisite taxes
11	State immunities from lawsuits	25	Presidential succession & disability
12	Presidential election procedures	26	Right to vote (18 and older)
13	Involuntary servitude and slavery	27	Congressional compensation

First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Thirteenth Amendment: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

Fourteenth Amendment (art. 1): “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Fifteenth Amendment: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Nineteenth Amendment: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” *Ratified 1920*

Twenty-sixth Amendment: “The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.” *Ratified 1971*