All quotations are from the Declaration of Independence, with the exception of “We the people” (Preamble to the Constitution), and “Children of One Family” (Common Sense by Thomas Paine).

Reason and Revolution is the title of Herbert Marcuse’s classic study of Hegel and Marx. Between Past and Future is the title of a collection of essays by Hannah Arendt on political philosophy.

Part I: In the Beginning

Class 1: “We the people”
Date: 02/01/07
Readings:
The Declaration of Independence
Preamble to the Constitution of the United States
Thomas Paine; Common Sense, excerpt

Class 2: “Nature and Nature’s God”
Date: 02/06/07
Readings:
The Bible, Genesis, chs. 1-4
Michael Pollan; “Second Nature,” in Our Land, Ourselves: Readings on People and Place
Music; Franz Joseph Haydn, The Creation, Introduction (“Representation of Chaos”), and Angelic Narrative

Class 3: “To establish justice”
Date: 02/08/07
Readings:
Hesiod; Works and Days, excerpt
Plato; Protagoras, excerpt

Interlude: Contemporary Commentary

Class 4: “He has plundered our seas”
Date: 02/15/07
Reading:
Wendell Berry; “The Gift of Good Land” (essay), from The Gift of Good Land: Further Essays Cultural and Agricultural
Part II: Reason and Revolution
Class 5: “A long train of abuses”
Date: 03/13/07
Readings:
Sir Thomas More; *Utopia*, excerpts
Wendell Berry; “What are People For?” (essay), from *What are People For?*

Class 6: “Certain inalienable rights”
Date: 03/15/07
Reading:
John Locke; *Second Treatise of Civil Government*, chapter V, “Of Property”

Class 7: “In every stage of these oppressions”
Date: 03/22/07
Readings:
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels; *The Communist Manifesto* (excerpts)
Simone Weil; “Uprootedness” and “The Needs of the Soul” (excerpts), from *The Need for Roots*

Part III: Between Past and Future
Class 8: “Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”
Date: 04/12/07
Reading:
Wendell Berry; “Feminism, the Body, and the Machine” (essay), from *What are People For?*

Class 9: “Children of the same family”
Date: 04/17/07
Readings:
Henry David Thoreau; *Walden*, ch. XVII, “Spring” (excerpt)
Annie Dillard; “Sojourner,” from *Teaching a Stone to Talk*