

THE GREAT DEBATES - FROM COLONIES TO NEW NATION, DEMOCRACY IN EARLY AMERICA (168)

Mondays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., (3 Classes 1/29 thru 2/12 in Room 30

Tuition \$30

Walk-in \$12 Pay prior to the class in the Center 4Life Learning office.

Do we need more government or less? Is technology a blessing or a curse? Should we rely on global or local supply chains? How do racial and demographic issues fit in? Can we really dominate nature or will we fall on our own swords? These modern issues have actually been subjects of contention ever since our nation's colonial origin, and in this class, we'll learn about and discuss the competing ideas of:

- Thomas Hobbes versus John Locke in the mid-1600s, debating human nature, law, and the role of government (week one)
- Thomas Jefferson versus Alexander Hamilton on industrialization, agriculture, taxation, and immigration in the brand-new USA of 1790 (week two)
- Thomas Malthus versus the Marquis de Condorcet in the 1790s on whether inescapable forces of nature doom us to a future of repeated cycles of misery, or whether democracy and technology place humanity on a guaranteed road to a happy, utopian future (week three).

Each week we will discuss additional historical figures, ranging from obscure to well-known, whose ideas shed new and surprising light on the week's topic. There are no prerequisites for attending, key handouts will be provided, and the class will be thought-provoking and enjoyable.

Robert Silverman is retired from a career of IT planning, research, and development at IBM and JP Morgan Chase and currently serves as Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Hillsborough Community College. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Center4Life Learning and has lived in Valencia Lakes for a number of years.