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Hillsdale College Releases 1776 Curriculum

American history curriculum for grades K-12 offered for free to all who wish to learn

Hillsdale, Mich. — Recognizing the critical moment in which we live, Hillsdale College is releasing an American history and civics curriculum for grades K-12. It is available to the general public for free at K12.Hillsdale.edu.

The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum, which covers the American Founding, the Civil War era, civics, and government, contains comprehensive lesson plans, homework assignments, quizzes, tests, study guides, and supplementary primary and secondary resource recommendations for teacher and student use. The curriculum was developed by Hillsdale College’s K-12 Education Department, professors at the College, and teachers in Hillsdale’s affiliated classical schools. By the end of 2021, the curriculum will be expanded to include units on Colonial America, the Early Republic, the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, the Great Depression, the World Wars, the Cold War, and Modern America.

“This curriculum is a work of education,” says Hillsdale College President Larry P. Arnn. “It seeks to teach the truth of American history and to cultivate in students the knowledge and virtue necessary to live good lives as citizens.”

The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum was created by teachers and for teachers. While developing the curriculum’s layout, materials, and pedagogy, the K-12 Education Department used Hillsdale College’s decades of experience supporting teachers in K-12 education. As a result, unlike some other curricula being developed by non-educator groups, the Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum meets the practical needs of parents and teachers on the frontlines of K-12 education.

Additionally, the curriculum’s content relies upon primary source documents and draws upon the insights of celebrated historians and political philosophers who taught or teach at some of the nation’s most prestigious institutions of higher education, including Princeton; Columbia; University of California, Berkeley; University of Chicago; Johns Hopkins; and Hillsdale College. The result treats American history, even its most controversial aspects, in a reasonable, respectful, and unbiased way.

“Our curriculum was created by teachers and professors—not activists, not journalists, not bureaucrats,” says Dr. Kathleen O’Toole, assistant provost for K-12 education at Hillsdale College. “It comes from years of studying America, its history, and its founding principles, not some slap-dash journalistic scheme to achieve a partisan political end through students. It is a truly American education.”

Photos can be viewed [here](#).

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About Hillsdale K-12

Hillsdale College’s K-12 Education Department supports school administrators, teachers, and parents with the educational and organizational resources they need to educate the nation’s youth in the American and classical tradition. The Barney Charter School Initiative (BCSI), part of the College’s K-12 efforts, promotes the founding of classical charter schools and excellence in their teaching and operations so that public school students may be educated in the liberal arts and sciences and receive instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue. The Initiative serves dozens of schools across the country, with more than 14,000 students enrolled. The Barney Charter School Initiative is made possible by a major grant from the Barney Family Foundation and matching gifts from other friends of Hillsdale College. For more information, visit [the BCSI website](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 5.7 million. For more information, visit [hillsdale.edu](#).

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