



Humanitas Teacher Training with Nate Antiel

Lecture 3: Primary Sources in the American Books

Outline:

Humanitas serves as a vital resource for classical educators, offering a curated selection of primary texts that illuminate human history and thought. By engaging with these materials, students not only learn about the past but also experience it through the lens of diverse cultures and perspectives. The collection fosters an understanding of governance, law, and societal structures, emphasizing deliberate and immersive reading practices to truly grasp historical significance.

Humanitas and the Value of Primary Texts

- **Curated Primary Texts**
 - Importance of primary texts in classical education.
 - Challenge of curating extensive materials for classroom use.
 - Humanitas provides a curated selection by scholars and classical educators.
- **Diverse Text Selections**
 - Includes poetry, literature, philosophy, political, and historical documents.
 - Selections range from well-known texts to hidden historical gems.
 - Focus on humanizing readers through historical engagement.

Key Historical and Political Themes

- **American Historical Foundations**
 - Exploration of the Iroquois League of Five Nations' political structures.
 - Understanding the Declaration of Independence as a living document.
- **Reformation Thought**



- Readings from Martin Luther and Calvin's *Institutes*.
- Examination of divine and secular authority.
- Connection between Calvin's ideas and the American founders, as noted by John Adams.
- **English Political Tradition**
 - Texts such as *Hall's Chronicles* and *Acts and Monuments* of Mary Tudor.
 - Excerpts from Samuel Rutherford's *Lex Rex*:
 - Argument that kings are subject to law.
 - The concept of rulers governing by consent rather than absolute authority.
- **Influence of Political Thinkers**
 - Works of Locke, Montesquieu, and other influential thinkers.
 - Themes of governance and the rule of law.

Major Historical Events and Accounts

- **Colonial America and the Great Awakening**
 - Founding of Jamestown and writings on the Great Awakening.
 - Texts addressing cultural phenomena like witch trials.
- **Military and Political History**
 - Accounts of the French and Indian War, including General Washington's journals.
 - Representation of significant historical conflicts and their narratives.

Reading and Understanding Primary Sources

- **Engagement with Historical Context**
 - Importance of inhabiting the framework in which texts were written.
 - Emphasis on deliberate reading to connect with historical realities.
- **Quotations and Guidance**
 - Thoreau (*Walden*): Books must be read as deliberately as they were written.
 - Emerson: Readers must embody the historical roles to understand deeply.

