

Book Club: The Sewing Girl's Tale

Course Description

Historian John Wood Smith guides the reader through the 1793 street of Lower Manhattan as seventeen-year-old seamstress Lanah Sawyer is convinced into a walk by gentleman, Lawyer Smith. The evening ends in a rape, one of the earliest in the U.S. We'll follow the research to locate trial records, the many characters, and shocking public responses.

Weekly Layout:

Welcome, Syllabus, and Author Introduction/Overview of Life in the New United States

Book Discussion Prologue-Chapter 4/Overview of lifestyles in New York City

Discuss Chapters 5 - 8/Research of Court Trials; Public's Responses

Discuss Chapters 9 - Epilogue/Overview of George Washington and His Presidency

Book Closure