MILLER CENTER STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Miller Center is a nonpartisan affiliate of the University of Virginia that specializes in presidential scholarship, public policy, and political history and strives to apply the lessons of history to the nation’s most pressing contemporary governance challenges. Based at the University of Virginia, the Miller Center is committed to work grounded in rigorous scholarship and advanced through civil discourse.

millercenter.org

For more information about the 2017 Historical Presidency lecture series, please visit millercenter.org/historicalpresidency or contact Stefanie Georgakis Abbott at sg9mj@virginia.edu.

Please check our website for event locations and the most current information.
The President and the Constitution
THE 2017 HISTORICAL PRESIDENCY LECTURE SERIES

The President and the Constitution

Featuring the most distinguished scholars in their fields, the Miller Center’s Historical Presidency lecture series reaches back into the American past to gain perspective on the way presidential leadership has evolved over time, from the founding of the country to the present.

Organized by Barbara Perry, White Burkett Miller Center Professor of Ethics and Institutions and director of presidential studies at the Miller Center, the 2017 Historical Presidency lecture series will examine the president and the constitution.

February 1, 3:30 p.m.

“The Executive Power to Amend the Constitution”


TBA—please see our website for date and time

JOANNE FREEMAN is a professor of history and American studies at Yale. She specializes in the politics and political culture of the revolutionary and early national periods of American history. She earned her PhD at the University of Virginia. Her most-recent book, Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic, won the Best Book award from the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, and her edited volume, Alexander Hamilton: Writings (Library of America), was one of the Atlantic’s “best books” of 2001. Her current project, The Field of Blood: Congressional Violence in Antebellum America, explores physical violence in the U.S. Congress between 1830 and the Civil War, and what it suggests about the institution of Congress, the nature of American sectionalism, the challenges of a young nation's developing democracy, and the long-standing roots of the Civil War.
April 11, 3:30 p.m.

“American Regicide: Postwar Presidents and the Painful Politics of Demobilization”

RUSSELL RILEY is an associate professor and cochair of the Miller Center’s Presidential Oral History Program. He is one of the nation’s foremost authorities on elite oral history interviewing and on the contemporary American presidency. Since 2003, he has led the William J. Clinton Presidential History Project, interviewing more than 100 former Clinton-era officials, including leading members of Congress and foreign heads of state. He is the author of The Presidency and the Politics of Racial Inequality: Nation-Keeping from 1831 to 1965, coeditor of Governing at Home: The White House and Domestic Policymaking, and coeditor of 42: Inside the Presidency of Bill Clinton. Riley’s most-recent book release is Inside the Clinton White House.

October 10, 3:30 p.m.

“The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History”

KEN GORMLEY is the president of Duquesne University and was previously the dean of Duquesne University School of Law. His work has earned him a national reputation as a leading constitutional scholar. In 1997, he published Archibald Cox: Conscience of a Nation, the authorized biography of one of the leading lawyers and public servants of the twentieth century. The book received the 1999 Bruce K. Gould Book Award for outstanding publication relating to the law. In 2010, Gormley published The Death of American Virtue: Clinton vs. Starr, a New York Times bestseller chronicling the scandals that nearly destroyed the Clinton presidency. The Death of American Virtue received a 2011 Silver Gavel Award (honorable mention) from the American Bar Association, as well as international critical acclaim.

November 13, 3:30 p.m.

“Leading from the Eye of the Storm: Presidents and Refoundings in American Democracy”

SIDNEY MILKIS is the White Burkett Miller Professor of Politics and faculty associate at the Miller Center. His books include The President and the Parties: The Transformation of the American Party System since the New Deal; Political Parties and Constitutional Government: Remaking American Democracy; Presidential Greatness, coauthored with Marc Landy; The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776–2011, 6th edition, coauthored with Michael Nelson; and Theodore Roosevelt, the Progressive Party, and the Transformation of American Democracy. He is the coeditor, with Jerome Mileur, of three volumes on twentieth-century political reform: Progressivism and the New Democracy; The New Deal and the Triumph of Liberalism; and The Great Society and the High Tide of Liberalism.