

**Dr. Dan Cassino, Minicourse, Fall 2019**

Mondays, 10 am to 12 Noon; Sep 23, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 (no class Sep 30)

**"Nice Presidents Finish Last: The Evolution of Presidential Power"**

Outline for Course Madison Public Library

The Readings listed are all relatively short books. I don't expect students to read all of them, but rather to pick out the ones that they're most interested in, or the ones that go alongside the lectures that they're interested in learning more about.

1: Why have a President at all?

John Locke and the Second Treatise on Civil Government

George Washington

The Constitutional Debate over the Powers of the Presidency

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson

Aaron Burr, and the Election of 1800

*Jefferson's Second Revolution by Susan Dunn*

2: The Transformation of the Presidency

Presidents in the shadow of Washington

John Quincy Adams

Andrew Jackson

The Rise of Parties, and the transformation of the political system

*American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House by Jon Meacham*

3: The Fight for Power

Our worst Presidents: James Buchanan and Andrew Johnson

Abraham Lincoln, and the rise of Emergency Powers

The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

James Garfield and Chester Arthur

The Rise of Imperial America

*Destiny of the Republic, by Candice Millard*

4: The Presidency Triumphant

Teddy Roosevelt, William Taft and the backlash against the Presidency

Woodrow Wilson

The Rise of Federal Law Enforcement  
Re-Evaluating Herbert Hoover  
Franklin Roosevelt  
Harry Truman and the Rise of the EOP

*Herbert Hoover in the White House: The Ordeal of the Presidency by Charles Rappleye*

5: "If the President Does it, it's not illegal"

JFK and Richard Nixon

Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon

Gary Hart and Bill Clinton

George Bush, terrorism and the Presidency

Understanding the modern Presidency: is there still a pendulum?

*The Pact, by Steven Gillon*