It is vain to say, that enlightened statesmen will be able to adjust these clashing interests, and render them all subservient to the public good. Enlightened statesmen will not always be at the helm: Nor, in many cases, can such an adjustment be made at all, without taking into view indirect and remote considerations, which will rarely prevail over the immediate interests which one party may find in disregarding the rights of another, or the good of the whole.”

— The Federalist, No. 10

"Viewed from the genuine abolition ground, Mr. Lincoln seemed tardy, cold, dull, and indifferent; but measuring him by the sentiment of his country, a sentiment he was bound as a statesman to consult, he was swift, zealous, radical, and determined.”

— Frederick Douglass, “Oration in Memory of Lincoln”

POLI 3809: Honors Seminar in Political Science: Statesmanship and Constitutional Democracy
Fall 2014

Description: Statesmanship is the exercise of political virtue in high office. But, wrote James Madison anticipating life under the Constitution, “Enlightened statesmen will not always be at the helm.” How does constitutionalism promote, structure, or limit opportunities for statesmanship? How does statesmanship emerge in the actions of citizens in political life, or in the offices they hold? Does modern democracy make statesmanship obsolete? Is good government possible without statesmanship?

Instructor: James Stoner
208B Stubbs Hall [tel: (225) 578-2538]
e-mail: poston@lsu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00-11:30
Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00, and by appointment

Course requirements:
• Attendance at every class and participation in class discussion [15%]
  MW 3:30-4:50
• Five 500-word essays on the reading, due alternate weeks [35%]
  Students will write essays about the readings on a topic of their choice, due at 4:00 pm on Fridays, September 12 and 26, October 10 and 24, and November 7
• Class presentation on final paper (during November & December) [10%]
  Having begun research for their term paper, students will present a sketch of the argument they are planning in class and will field questions from their classmates; the aim is to help improve their papers through feedback, so the grade on the presentation will be replaced by the term paper grade if the latter is higher.
• 3500-word research paper on an American statesman in political context, due Friday, December 12 [40%]
  Students will choose a statesman from American political history—someone who held state or federal office and who is no longer living— or an equivalent figure from world history and write a paper that examines his/her speeches, writings, and deeds in the context of his/her office(s) and of the politics of the time. Is there a consistent aim or focus to his/her life’s work? What was his/her principal achievement? Topics are to be chosen in consultation with the instructor by Friday, October 31.
Books available for purchase:

- John Barry, *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul* (Penguin) [9780143122883]
- James Madison, *Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention* (Ohio) [9780821407653]
- Pauline Maier, *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788* (Simon & Schuster) [9780684868554]
- Harry Jaffa, *Crisis of the House Divided* (Chicago) [9780226391182]
- Jeffrey Tulis, *The Rhetorical Presidency* (Princeton) [9780691022956]
- Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy* (Simon & Schuster) [9780671510992]
- Tom Plate, *Conversations with Lee Kwan Yew, Citizen Singapore: How to Build a Nation* (Marshall Cavendish) [9789812616760 or 9789814398619]

Website and Reserve:

A course website, including material not included in the books available for purchase, is available for registered students on Moodle. Most of the books may be found on reserve in Middleton Library.

SYLLABUS:

INTRODUCTION

Mon., 8/25  
Introduction  
James Madison, *The Federalist*, no. 10  
Frederick Douglass, “Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln”

Week One: The Political Theory of Statesmanship, Classical and Modern

Wed., 8/27  
Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, ch. 1-2; Book III (entire)  
Aristotle, *Ethics*, Book IV, ch. 3-4; Book VI, ch. 5, 8-11  
Aquinas, *On Kingship*, Book II, ch. 1-4

Wed., 9/3  
Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ch. 15-24  
Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, II.13-14  
Week Two: The First American Founding

Mon., 9/8  John Barry, *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul*, prologue, ch. 8, 10, 14, 17
          John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity”
          Winthrop, “Little Speech on Liberty”

Wed., 9/10  *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul*, ch. 18-19, 27, 29, 31, 34, afterword
           Roger Williams, “Mr. Cottons Letter … Examined and Answered”

Fri., 9/12  short essay due

Weeks Three & Four: The Constitutional Founding

Mon., 9/15  Pauline Maier, *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788*, prologue (recommended)

Wed., 9/17  *Notes of Debates*, July 5-21, August 7-14, 21-22, September 15-17

Mon., 9/22  *Ratification*, ch. 3, & one of the following: ch. 4, 5, 6, or 7

Wed., 9/24  *Ratification*, epilogue, & one of the following: ch. 9, 10, 12, or 13

Fri., 9/26  short essay due

Weeks Five & Six: The Statesman as Political Thinker & Party Leader

           Lincoln-Douglas Debate at Ottawa, Illinois (8/21/58)

Wed., 10/1  *Crisis of the House Divided*, ch. 9, 14

Mon., 10/6  Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make*, ch. 1-4.1

Wed., 10/8  *The Politics Presidents Make*, ch. 8, & one of the following: ch. 5, 6, or 7

Fri., 10/10  short essay due
Weeks Seven & Eight: The Two Presidencies

Wed., 10/15  *Supreme Command*, ch. 6-7
Mon., 10/20  Jeff Tulis, *The Rhetorical Presidency*, ch. 1-4
Wed., 10/22  *The Rhetorical Presidency*, ch. 5-7
Fri., 10/24  **short essay due**

Weeks Nine, Ten, & Eleven: Statesmanship in the World Arena

Wed., 10/29  *Diplomacy*, ch. 29-31
Mon., 11/3   Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*, parts 9-10
Wed., 11/5   *Long Walk to Freedom*, part 11
Fri., 11/7   **short essay due**
Mon., 11/10  *Conversations with Lee Kwan Yew*, pp. 14-108
Wed., 11/12  *Conversations with Lee Kwan Yew*, pp. 109-211

Workshop: RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Mon., 11/17  presentations
Wed., 11/19  presentations
Mon., 11/24  presentations

[THANKSGIVING BREAK]

Mon., 12/1   presentations
Wed., 12/3   presentations

Fri., 12/12  **FINAL PAPER DUE (4:00 pm)**