A Rendezvous with Destiny, Part One: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt

OSHER 795-001
Dates: Thursdays, 9/24/15-11/5/15, no class 10/15
Times: 9:30AM-11:00AM
Location: Commander's House, Ft Douglas
Instructor: Kevin Peterson, kmtpeterson@comcast.net

Course Overview

It has been said that in order for a president to be considered great they must face and overcome a great crisis. Franklin Roosevelt overcame three such crises—the Great Depression, the Second World War, and his own personal crisis with polio. In doing so, he and Eleanor Roosevelt also forged one of the most interesting and important political partnerships in American history. The course will be offered in three parts during the Fall, Winter, and Spring Semesters of 2015-2016. In addition, the course will be treated as a companion to a study of the political philosophy of Abraham Lincoln, which will be offered during the Winter and Spring Semesters of 2016.

SUGGESTED READING
Alexander Hamilton. Federalist No. 69 (From The Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, 1787-1788)

SUGGESTED WRITING
Those participating in both this course and the course concerning Lincoln’s political philosophy will be given the opportunity to write an essay based on the content of both courses. The title of the essay will be “The Purpose of America,” and will concern the evolving role of the Federal Government in the American republic. The essay will be completed and shared with class members at the end of the Spring 2016 Semester.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. To better understand how Franklin Roosevelt led the United States through two of its greatest crises: the Great Depression and the Second World War.
2. To better understand how Roosevelt transformed the role of the presidency from that of caretaker to being responsible for the welfare of the country as a whole.
3. To better understand the complex and vital relationship of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt and how that relationship affected the direction of the country.
4. To better understand how the Roosevelt presidency was a part of the larger evolution of the office of the Presidency and the role of the Federal Government in the history of the United States.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK ONE** (September 24): Beginnings, 1881-1918

**WEEK TWO** (October 1): The Crisis, 1918-1924

**WEEK THREE** (October 8): The Road Back, 1924-1928

**WEEK FOUR** (October 22): In the Arena, 1928-1930

**WEEK FIVE** (October 29): A New Deal, 1931-1932

**WEEK SIX** (November 5): Nothing to Fear, 1932-1933