The Servant Presidents:
Leadership Lessons from George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt

OSHER 932-001
Dates: Thursdays, 9/22/2016 - 11/3/2016, no class 10/20/16
Times: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Location: Commander's House, Fort Douglas
Instructor: Kevin Peterson, Email: kmtpeterson@comcast.net

Course Overview
There have been many remarkable leaders who, from 1789 to the present, have occupied the office of President of the United States. Yet, by general consensus three stand out above all the others: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They lived in very different times and came from very different backgrounds: a member of the 18th Century Virginia gentry, the rough-hewn Western 19th Century lawyer and politician; and the 20th Century Hudson River aristocrat. This course will analyze the leadership traits that, to varying degrees, they held in common, and that made them unique.

SUGGESTED READING

There is no single text for the course. The final section of this Syllabus presents a Bibliography of several works that have been used by the Instructor in preparation of the course. Many of these works have will be familiar to those in earlier classes. The Instructor may distribute handouts from some of these.

At the same time, there is a book which the Instructor would strongly recommend that those taking the class read. It is: Washington: The Indispensable Man by James Thomas Flexner (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1974) ISBN 0-316-286052
LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To study what were—despite differences of personality and background, the times in which they lived, and the challenges they faced—the common leadership qualities of Washington, Lincoln, and Roosevelt.

2. To study and analyze how these leadership traits qualities may be applicable for those in positions of leadership today.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE (September 22, 2016): The Forge of Experience—Beginnings

WEEK TWO (September 29, 2016): The Fires of Adversity—Becoming a Leader

WEEK THREE (October 6, 2016): The Lion and the Fox—How to Get Things Done

WEEK FOUR (October 13, 2016): Let Us Reason Together—The Art of Persuasion

WEEK FIVE (October 27, 2016): In Future Days—The Gift of Foresight

WEEK SIX (November 3, 2016): A Willing Piece of Sacrifice—Servant Leadership
BIBLIOGRAPHY


First Entrepreneur: How George Washington Built His—and the Nation’s—Prosperity


Lincoln David Herbert Donald (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995)


