The Future of American Society

VISITING SCHOLARS

The Contested Presidency: Competing Views of the Modern Presidency
Dr. Tony Eksterowicz, Professor Emeritus, James Madison University
Tuesday 10/9, 7 p.m. Harrison 2105

Money, Politics and the Maldistribution of Wealth in the United States
Dr. James Todd, Lecturer in American Politics, University of Virginia
Tuesday 10/16, 7 p.m. Harrison 2105

Panel Presentations

The Politics of the American Founding
In recent years electoral and judicial debates about the “intent of the Founders” have shaped American politics. This session will consider contemporary debates about the proper role of government—at both the national and state level—from normative as well as historical perspectives.
COORDINATOR: Dr. Howard Lubert
WEDNESDAY 10/3, 4:30-6:00, Taylor 405

Perspectives from our Community: Local Immigrants
Several residents from the Shenandoah Valley will share their experiences with immigration to the United States and thoughts on immigration reform and the impact of the 2012 Presidential election on this issue will be discussed.
COORDINATOR: Dr. Jennifer Byrne
WEDNESDAY 10/3, Moody 101, 2:30-3:45

Social Issues in the 2012 Election: It’s Not Just About the Economy
This panel will investigate the role of high-profile social issues including same-sex marriage and abortion in the 2012 election. Panelists may discuss topics such as key events in 2011 and 2012 that have placed such issues “at the center of American political discourse” (Huffington Post), how the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates discuss social policy on the campaign trail, the role of prominent state and local ballot measures, and the likely impact of social issues on voter choice and election results.
COORDINATOR: Dr. Kathleen Ferraiolo,
THURSDAY 10/4, 4:30-6:00, Taylor 306

Future Directions in U.S. Foreign Policy
This panel will review the record of President Obama’s foreign policy and discuss the future directions U.S foreign policy might take in the next four years. Attention will be given to the power resources available to the United States, the issues it is likely to confront and the actions of other powers.
COORDINATOR: Dr. Jon Keller
MONDAY 10/8, 3:00-4:30, Taylor 405

The 2012 Election and the Courts
This panel will feature a discussion between JMU faculty members about how American courts have influenced the context of this year’s election and how the election outcomes may affect the shape of future courts. Topics to be addressed include campaign finance rules after Citizens United and other court decisions, the vacancy crisis in the lower courts, and likely scenarios for the Supreme Court under a second Obama term or a Romney presidency.
COORDINATOR: Dr. Andreas Broscheid
WEDNESDAY 10/10, 12:15-1:30, Taylor 306

Religion in the 2012 Election
The intersection of religion and politics is not as simple as it once was. Our panel will explore the changing nature of this relationship focusing on differences within religious traditions as opposed to differences between them.
COORDINATOR: Dr. Marty Cohen
THURSDAY 10/11, 12:15-1:30, Taylor 306
The Virginia Senate Race: Insights from Both Parties
Panelists: Dave Rexrode, Executive Director of Republican Party of Virginia, Dave Mills, Executive Director of the Democratic Party of Virginia
COORDINATOR: Dr. David Jones
Thursday, 11/29, TBD

Blame the Messenger? The Media and the 2012 Elections
Panelists: David Jones, Brian Taylor, SCOM, Joanne Holman, SMAD
COORDINATOR: Dr. David Jones
Wednesday, 11/28, 6:00-7:15 p.m. TBD

The Future of American Society
the View from the 2012 Election

Presentations, Cont.

Green Rhetoric: Divining the Future of Environmental Policies from the Campaign Trail
This panel convenes an interdisciplinary group of scholars and practitioners who will parse the content of campaign speeches and interviews to discuss and debate the future of U.S. environmental policies. Expect a lively discussion touching upon themes of environmental justice, lobby and interest group influence, climate change politics and more.
COORDINATOR: Dr. Rob Alexander
Monday 10/15, 12:15-1:30, Taylor 304

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM VISIT
http://www.jmu.edu/publicaffairs

Wednesday October 3rd through Tuesday October 16, 2012