This course will analyze the ways in which institutional arrangements can encourage, direct, or thwart leadership. The focus will be on the presidency of the United States and how the constitutional arrangements governing that office affect the way those who fill it might use its powers. The course will consider in detail the presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

Attendance and participation are expected and will be reflected as part of the final grade (30%). Participation will be calculated on quality, not simply quantity. It is expected that all the readings for a given date will be done in advance of that class meeting and everyone will be prepared to discuss the assigned materials. The grade for participation will also include brief paper assignments to guide the discussion.

The primary assessments in this course will be a major research paper (40% of the final grade) and a final examination (30% of the final grade.) Rather than simply require the submission of the paper at the end of the semester, we will work together on it over the course of the term, allowing opportunities for discussion and criticism that might not otherwise be possible. The final grade for the paper will consist of several components: a formal proposal; a preliminary but substantial bibliography; a review of the literature; and a final draft of the paper (15-18pp.). All assignments should be typed (13 point font), double-spaced, paginated, with 1" margins. You should feel free to contact me by appointment or by email (gmdowel@richmond.edu) to discuss these matters as we move along. The schedule of due dates for these various components is outlined below.

Research Paper Schedule

I. Proposed Research Project Statement (10%): Due September 13th

The formal proposal should be a 2-3 pp. statement of what the main thesis of the research paper will be. Attention should be given to making the case for the importance of the topic, explaining how it will be carried out, and demonstrating how
this will contribute to a better understanding of Abraham Lincoln, his time, and his constitutional leadership.

II. Preliminary Bibliography (15 %): Due October 6th

This should be the preliminary, not necessarily the final bibliography. You should assemble those sources most likely to benefit your researches as outlined in the project statement discussed above. This bibliography should include scholarly articles and books, as well as government documents and any court cases that may be appropriate. This will be assessed on the thoughtfulness of the listings, not simply the number included. This should reflect careful consideration on your part as to what sources would appear to be most helpful to your making the case for your thesis.

III. Review of the Literature (25%): Due October 20th

This should be a 5-7 pp. essay on the materials you have selected for use in your project. It should display a keen familiarity with the works discussed, an appreciation for how they help define the existing scholarly understanding of your area of interest, and an awareness of the areas in which they might be deficient. In short, it should be a critical assessment of both the scholarly research to which you are turning to complete your project and how your thesis fits within that existing body of literature.

IV. Research Paper (50%): Due November 17th

Your paper should conform to all scholarly conventions of style, be supported by a proper system of footnote citations, and be accompanied by a comprehensive bibliography. The paper should be 15–18 pp. in length, including footnotes or endnotes but not including the final bibliography.

Class Reading Assignments

Required Texts

Don Fehrenbacher, Prelude to Greatness
Don Fehrenbacher, ed., Lincoln: Speeches and Writings (two volumes)
Stephen B. Oates, With Malice Toward None
Douglas L. Wilson, Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words

Recommended Text:

William Lee Miller, Lincoln's Virtues


View Ken Burns, *The Civil War*, episode one.

II. Reflections on the American Presidency (August 30; September 1, 6)


The Declaration of Independence

*The Federalist Papers*, Nos. 1, 9, 10, 51, 70-72.

The United States Constitution

View Spielberg’s film, *Lincoln*

III. Lincoln’s Education for Leadership (September 8, 13, 15, 20)


William Lee Miller, *Lincoln’s Virtues* (entire; recommended)


Abraham Lincoln, “Address to the Temperance Society”, in Fehrenbacher, ed., *Lincoln:
Speeches and Writings, I: 81-90.


Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War (Pericles’ funeral oration)

V. Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850s  (September 22, 27, 29; October 4, 6)

Oates, With Malice Toward None, parts, III-IV, pp. 91-191.

Don E. Fehrenbacher, Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850s (entire)

Wilson, Lincoln’s Sword, pp. 19-41.


*The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*
[All readings are in Fehrenbacher, ed., *Lincoln Speeches and Writings*, volume one]

- First Debate at Ottawa, I: 495-536
- Second Debate at Freeport, I: 537-580
- Third Debate at Jonesboro, I: 586-634
- Fourth Debate at Charleston, I: 636-684
- Fifth Debate at Galesburg, I: 687-729
- Sixth Debate at Quincy, I: 730-773
- Seventh Debate at Alton, I: 774-822


*Recommended Reading:*


**VI. President Lincoln (October 13, 15, 20, 25, 27; November 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 22, 29; December 1))**


(All other readings in this section unless otherwise noted are to be found in volume two of Fehrenbacher, ed., *Lincoln: Speeches and Writings*; all page numbers of the readings refer to that volume)
Preserving the Union

Wilson, Lincoln’s Sword, pp. 10-18.
Wilson, Lincoln’s Sword, pp. 42-70.
Wilson, Lincoln’s Sword, pp. 71-104
Wilson, Lincoln’s Sword, pp. 143-161.
Emancipation

Abraham Lincoln, “Preliminary Proclamation,” pp. 368-370
Wilson, Lincoln’s Sword, pp. 162-197.

Reconstruction

Wilson, Lincoln’s Sword, pp. 198-237; 285-293.


