Statesmanship: James Madison
LDST 378/01
PLSC 310/01
LAWE 699/12

Spring 2012
Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:15pm
Jepson Hall 102

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The purpose of this course is to examine the idea of statesmanship within the context of the life of James Madison, (1751-1836). Madison is still considered by many to have been the father of the Constitution in the Federal Convention of 1787; he was a co-author with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay of The Federalist; as a member of the first Congress he secured the passage of the first amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights; under President Thomas Jefferson he served as Secretary of State, and then followed Jefferson as the fourth President of the United States; and, with his lifelong friend and collaborator Jefferson, Madison was a co-founder of one of the first political parties, one that continues in an evolved form to this day.

This course is not intended to be a mere biographical survey of a great life well lived. After a brief overview of Madison’s life, we will turn to Madison himself. Almost all the readings will be from Madison’s own pen. From this reliance on primary sources — correspondence, speeches, essays, and so forth — we will hope not simply to learn about Madison, but from Madison.

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 occasional brief paper assignments to guide the discussion.

The primary assessment in this course will be a major research paper (70% 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 graded components: a formal proposal; a preliminary but substantial bibliography; a review of the literature; a first draft of the paper; and, finally, a revised final draft of the paper. 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 (gmcdowel@richmond.edu) to discuss these matters as we move along. The schedule of due dates for these various components is outlined below, at the end of this syllabus.
Required Readings:


Recommended Reading:


Reading Assignments

I. Introduction: The Mechanics of Research (January 10, 12)

II. Biography and Leadership: Introducing Mr. Madison (January 17, 19)

Richard Brookhiser, *James Madison* (entire)

James Madison, “A Sketch Never Finished Nor Applied,” in Rakove, ed., *James Madison: Writings*, pp. 828-842 (all readings below are to this volume unless otherwise noted).

Madison to William Bradford, pp. 3-10.


III. Constitutional Stirrings (January 24, 26)


Madison to Caleb Wallace, pp. 39-47.

Madison to James Monroe, pp. 50-51.

Madison to Thomas Jefferson, pp. 63-68.


Madison to George Washington, pp. 80-85.
IV. Creating the Constitution: The Federal Convention (January 31, February 2,7,9)


Madison to Thomas Jefferson, pp. 95-97.


Madison to Thomas Jefferson, pp. 135-137.

Madison to George Washington, pp. 137-139; 140-142.

Madison to Thomas Jefferson, pp. 142-158

Jefferson to Madison (handout)

Madison to Jared Sparks, pp. 854-857.

V. Ratifying the Constitution: The Federalist and Virginia (February 14, 16, 21, 23)

Madison to George Washington, pp. 158-159.


Madison, The Federalist No. 10 (pp. 160-167); No. 14 (pp. 168-173); No. 37 (pp. 194-201); No. 38 (pp. 202-210); No. 39 (pp. 211-217); No. 47 (pp. 273-280); No. 48 (pp. 281-285); No. 49 (pp. 286-290); No. 51 (pp. 294-298); No. 63 (pp. 345-352).


VI. Principles and Parties: The Politics of Opposition (February 28, March 1, 15, 20, 22)

A. Congress


[Recommended Reading: Goldwin, From Parchment to Power]
B. Essays in the Party Press


Madison “Who are the Best Keepers,” pp. 532-534.


C. States’ Rights


VII. Principles and Practice: Madison in Office (March 27, 29)

“Secretary of State and President,” pp. 671-720.

VII. Reflections: The Last of the Founders (April 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19)

A. The Republic and its Peculiar Institution

Madison to Robert Walsh, pp. 723-728.

Madison to Robert Evans, pp. 728-733.

Madison to Robert Walsh, pp. 737-745.

B. On the Constitution and its Interpretation

Madison to Spencer Roane, pp. 733-737.

Madison to Spencer Roane, pp. 772-777.

Madison to Spencer Roane, pp. 777-779.
Madison to Thomas Jefferson, pp. 798-804.
Madison to Peter DuPonceau, pp. 804-807.

C. Education and Republicanism
Madison to Thomas Jefferson, pp. 807-809.
Madison to Thomas Jefferson, pp. 809-811

D. States’ Rights
Madison to Edward Everett, pp. 842-852.
Madison to James Robertson, pp. 852-854.
Madison to Nicholas Trist, pp. 859-860.
Madison to Nicholas Trist, pp. 861-863.

E. Epilogue

Research Paper Schedule

I. Proposed Research Project Statement (10%): Due January 31st

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 Madison and his times.

II. Preliminary Bibliography (5%): Due February 14th

This should be the preliminary, but 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 court cases that may be appropriate. This will be assessed on the thoughtfulness of the listings, not simply