

**CMontpelier Seminar**

**Creation of the Constitution**

**October 11-13, 2013**

***Friday, October 11, 2013***

3-5:30 p.m. **Check-In**

6-7 p.m. **Dinner**

7-7:30 p.m. **Welcome and Agenda Overview**

* Welcome to the Center for the Constitution
* Mission of the Center for the Constitution
* Agenda overview and logistics of the weekend

7:30-8:30 p.m. **Lecture – The Road Leading to Philadelphia**

*Essential Questions:*

* What were the problems under the Articles of Confederation?
* What were the lessons drawn from past confederacies?
* What kind of government would the Virginia Plan have created?

*Readings to be Addressed:*

* The Articles of Confederation
* Madison’s “Notes on Ancient and Modern Confederacies”
* Madison’s “Vices of the Political System of the United States”
* The Virginia Plan

***Saturday, October 12, 2013***

8-9 a.m. **Breakfast**

9-10:15 a.m. **Lecture - The Slavery Compromises**

*Essential Questions:*

* What reasons did the South give for wanting full representation for the slaves, and the North none at all? How important was the question of direct taxation to the final three-fifths compromise?
* Why did the Convention agree to allow the slave trade to continue for 20 years?

*Readings to be Addressed:*

* Selected debates from the Constitutional Convention

10:15-10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m.-Noon **Lecture – A New Kind of Federalism**

*Essential Questions:*

* What would a federal veto have done to the balance of power between the state and central governments, and why did the delegates finally balk at the idea?
* What measures were put in place in lieu of a federal veto?
* What measures were put in place to protect state powers?

*Readings to be Addressed:*

* Selected debates from the Constitutional Convention

Noon-1 p.m. **Lunch**

1-2:30 p.m. **Mansion Tour**

2:30-3 p.m. **Break**

3-4:15 p.m. **Lecture – Congress**

*Essential Questions:*

* What are the characteristics of an “upper” and “lower” chamber, and in what ways does the Constitution retain these features?
* What are the characteristics of a “federal” and “national” chamber of the legislature, and in what ways does the Constitution institute these features?
* What possibilities were considered relating to the qualifications for suffrage, and why does the leave the question to the states?

*Readings to be Addressed:*

* Selected debates from the Constitutional Convention

4:15-4:30 p.m. **Break**

4:30-5:30 p.m. **Lecture – The Presidency**

*Essential Questions:*

* What were the various measures proposed in order to keep the executive branch independent? What were the proposals for keeping it dependent? Which side won out?
* What were the various proposals offered for selecting the president? Why did this question seem to bedevil the delegates as much as it did?
* What are the president’s powers?

*Readings to be Addressed:*

* Selected debates from the Constitutional Convention

5:30-6 p.m. **Reception**

6-7 p.m. **Dinner**

***Sunday, October 13, 2013***

8-9 a.m. **Breakfast**

9-10:30 a.m. **Enslaved Community Tour**

10:30-10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45-noon **Lecture – The Judiciary (and a couple of loose ends)**
*Essential Questions:*

* What would a “Council of Revision” have done, and why was it rejected? What did the delegates mean by a “double negative,” and what does that argument imply about their assumptions for the judiciary?
* What do the selection, tenure, and salary arrangements of the federal judges say about the sort of judiciary the Framers were aiming for?
* Why was it so important to the Framers that the Constitution be ratified in the manner that it was?

*Readings to be Addressed:*

* Selected debates from the Constitutional Convention

noon-12:45 p.m. **Lunch**

12:45-2 p.m. **Lecture – The Final Constitution: Signed, Transmitted, and Ratified**

*Essential Questions:*

* How much support did the new Constitution have among the members of the Convention? Why did so many of the delegates present sign it? Why did three refuse?
* What were the main objections to the new Constitution?
* Why did some insist that a Bill of Rights was necessary, and why did some others argue that it was not?

*Readings to be Addressed:*

* Selected speeches from the Constitutional Convention
* The Constitution of the United States with the final resolution of the Convention, the Letter of Transmittal, and the Bill of Rights
* A few arguments from the state ratifying conventions

2-2:30 p.m. **Closing Comments and Evaluation**

2:30 p.m. **Adjourn**