

Black History Month Events

2/5 Film Screening: *Democrats*

Winner of the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival's Best Documentary Feature award, *Democrats* (dir. Camilla Nielsson) is a non-fiction thriller about the African nation of Zimbabwe's tensely peaceful struggle to emerge from authoritarian rule. Described by Alan Scherstuhl of the *Village Voice* as "intimate and suspenseful...as excellent a documentary about politics as you will ever see," the film will be followed by a discussion led by Zimbabwean historian **Francis Musoni** of University of Kentucky.

7:00 PM in Waters Auditorium popcorn & other refreshments served

2/25 Racism, Reparation, and Reconciliation: The United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent

Verene A. Shepherd, Professor of Social History at the University of the West Indies and member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, will give a public talk on the origins and objectives of this major United Nations initiative. Presented in partnership with the Black History Month Committee, the MU Department of Black Studies, and the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative.

6:00 PM in Neff Hall 204

Lecture Series

2/25 Did the American Founders Intend to Separate Church and State?

Vincent Phillip Muñoz, Tocqueville Associate Professor of Religion and Public Life at the University of Notre Dame, will give a talk on the original meaning of the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

5:00 PM in 7 Hulston Hall

3/16 Debate on Presidential War Power

Legal scholars **Alberto Coll** (DePaul University College of Law) and **John Yoo** (University of California-Berkeley Law) will debate whether the U.S. President needs congressional authorization to involve the United States in foreign wars. Professor **Carli Conklin** of the MU Law School will moderate.

6:00 PM in Leadership Auditorium

3/20 American Injustice: Mercy, Humanity, and Making a Difference

Bryan Stevenson, author of the widely acclaimed *Just Mercy* and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, will give a public lecture about mass incarceration and criminal justice in the United States. The talk will be followed by a reception and book signing.

4:00 PM in Jesse Auditorium

4/4 Town and Gown Dinner

Annette Gordon-Reed and **Peter Onuf**, *"Most Blessed of the Patriarchs": Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination*

Opening their national book tour in Columbia, two renowned Jefferson experts, Harvard Law School Professor **Annette Gordon-Reed**, who won the Pulitzer Prize and National Humanities Medal for her work on the Hemings family, and **Peter S. Onuf**, retired University of Virginia Professor and co-host of NPR's "Backstory with the History Guys," will give a dinner lecture sharing their insights on one of American history's most complex and debated figures.

6:30 PM in Columns D&E, Reynolds Alumni Center

Seating is limited. Contact KaneTC@missouri.edu for reservations

Jefferson Book Club

Led by Professor of Political Science **Jay Dow**, the Jefferson Book Club is an extracurricular group for MU undergraduates interested in discussing great books in the Western tradition. This semester's readings include James Fenimore Cooper's *The American Democrat* and selections from Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*. The JBC will meet on the second Wednesday of every month during the Spring 2016 semester in the Tiger Club Bistro at the University Club.

Please contact dowj@missouri.edu for more details.

Friday History Colloquium Series

1/29 Imperial Claims, Local Justice: The Spanish Ship Affair in a Colonial Connecticut Court

Missouri Western Assistant Professor **Dominic DeBrincat** will examine a revealing but little-known incident from the troubled history of colonial America on the eve of the American Revolution: the 1752 looting of the Spanish cargo ship *St. Joseph and St. Helena* in the harbor of New London, Connecticut, and its long legal aftermath.

3:30 PM in Read Hall 304

2/12 University of Oxford's Jay Sexton: "The Politics of the U.S. Steam Empire"

University of Oxford Professor of History and Rothermere American Institute Director **Jay Sexton** will give a talk on how innovations in steam technology transformed the political landscape in nineteenth-century America and beyond.

3:30 PM in Read Hall 304

Missouri Regional Seminar on Early American History

Open to all area faculty & graduate students - email PasleyJ@missouri.edu for details about attending.

2/19 The Constitution of American Environmental Governance

Participants will gather in St. Louis to discuss University of Missouri-St. Louis Curators' Teaching Professor and Political Science Department Chair **David Robertson**'s forthcoming work on the evolution of land governance in America from the founding of the colonies through the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. MU Professor of History **Jerry Frank** will serve as interlocutor.

4/8 Interdisciplinary Double-Feature: Religion and Knowledge in Early American History

Convening in Columbia, MRSEAH participants will discuss "An apt emblem": Natural Sciences and Devotion among the Laity in the Early Republic," a book chapter by History Prof. **Lily Santoro** (Southeast Missouri State), and hear a talk by Prof. **Abram Van Engen** (English Dept., Washington University in St. Louis), entitled "Missionary Impulses and Historical Societies: The Political Theology of American History in the Early Republic."

Academic Conference

5/21-22 Shawnee Trail Regional Seminar on American Politics and Constitutionalism

The Kinder Institute will host the second annual Shawnee Trail Seminar, bringing scholars together to discuss new research on American political development and constitutional theory.

All day at the Broadway Hotel

Community Seminars

Mormonism and the American Political Tradition

Kinder Postdoctoral Fellow in History **Benjamin Park** will lead a seminar that examines the Mormon Church's impact on American political discourse, from the 1830s through the present day. The seminar will meet on the second Thursday of every month, from January through April.

Please contact parkben@missouri.edu for more details.

Crisis and Constitutionalism

Kinder Institute Director **Justin Dyer** will lead a seminar that uses readings from the history of political thought and historical case studies to examine constitutional governments' ability to survive times of crisis and to consider arguments for and against the existence of emergency executive powers. The seminar will meet on January 21 and February 18, 2016.

Please contact dyerjb@missouri.edu for more details.



democracy. missouri.edu