2/25 Public Schools and American Democracy
Why do we have public schools? What do we want from them? At a time when Americans seem to be hopelessly divided, Western Washington University Professor of History Johann Neem asks us to take stock. Drawing on his new book, Democracy’s Schools: The Rise of Public Education in America, Neem will explore the historic purposes for the development of public education—educating citizens, developing human capabilities, and forging a nation—in order to address whether or not these purposes continue to guide our educational institutions and why we seem to be losing faith in them.
Mumford Hall 133, 5:30 pm

Town & Gown Dinner Lecture
4/10 Jeffersonian Constitutionalism: Words to Protect Our Liberties
Our Spring 2018 Town & Gown Dinner Lecture will bring Rice University President Dr. John R. Banks to Columbia to give a talk on how Thomas Jefferson’s evolving attitudes about government power, free expression, and protection of liberties reflected his overarching belief that the Constitution could (and should) change as the nation matured.
Contact Kinder Institute Communications Associate Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu, for details about attending the Town & Gown lecture.

Conference: Religion and Politics in Early America, Beginnings to 1820
Along with the John C. Danforth Center, the Kinder Institute will co-sponsor a March 18 conference in St. Louis that takes a rigorously interdisciplinary approach to exploring how religion shaped politics and politics shaped religion in early America, from pre-contact through the early Republic.

2/9 Constituent Instructions and the Evolution of Representation in America, 1778-1900
MU Professor of Political Science Peverill Squire will draw on unique datasets he has gathered on actionable communications—instructions or requests for state and congressional lawmakers to pursue certain policies—to challenge prevailing wisdom about the historical scope and function of constituent instructions and to explore what the real story of these instructions can tell us about the evolution of representation in America during the nineteenth century.
Jesse Hall 410, 5:30 pm

2/23 The Emergence of Routinized Elections in the Early Republic
MU Professor of Political Science Jay Dow will discuss the driving forces behind the transition that occurred during the first party era from “differential” politics, in which local elites chose candidates and voters filled in the blank, to the politics in which the enfranchised increasingly became self-determining, organized among party lines, and responsive to political issues and events.
Jesse Hall 410, 5:30 pm

3/16 Settler Colonialism and the History of U.S. Women’s Property Rights
In partnership with the MU Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, the Kinder Institute will host Western University Assistant Professor of History Laurel Shire on campus to discuss her research on white women’s indispensable place in the history of U.S. settler colonial regimes, such as early-nineteenth century Florida, as well as the implications, both historical and contemporary, of the rights and benefits these women sometimes enjoyed as a result of supporting colonization.
Leadership Auditorium, 4:00 pm

2/8 Exemptions as a Mechanism for Political Stability
Participants in the first Spring 2018 workshop will discuss Kinder Institute Postdoctoral Fellow David Golemboski’s recent work on religious exemptions from generally-applicable laws, which moves away from the moral or rights-based terms on which debate about this topic typically takes place and instead fashions a defense of exemptions as mechanisms to enhance political stability.
Jesse Hall 410, 9 am

3/5 Reagan Revisited
The semester’s second academic workshop will feature discussion of a chapter from University of Texas Clements Center for National Security Executive Director Will Inboden’s current book project, which focuses on the sources and themes of the Reagan Administration’s World War II-influenced, multi-pronged national security strategy for waging the Cold War and promoting democratic capitalism worldwide.
Jesse Hall 410, 2 pm

3/9 Religion and the Postwar Politics of Immigration Reform
The Kinder Institute will host Brigham University Associate Professor of History Wendy Wall on campus for a workshop discussion of her recent research on the religious actors and organizations whose post-WW II efforts to build support for and shape the contours of immigration reform contributed to the passage of the transformative Immigration Act of 1965.
Jesse Hall 410, 3:30 pm

Colloquium Series
1/31 Thinking about Gerrymandering
University of Oklahoma Professor of Political Science Keith Gaddie will be on campus for a talk that uses recent litigation in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina to raise questions concerning the constitutionality of gerrymandering and to explore the potential for institutional tests that might tame egregious abuses in the redistricting process.
Jesse Hall 410, 10 am

2/2 Gateway to Equality
In discussing her recent book, which investigates black working-class women in St. Louis’ struggle for racial and economic justice from the rise of New Deal liberalism through the peak of the PHS’ The Open Mind, will examine the divisiveness that plagues contemporary discourse and governance, as well as the clickbait, fake news, and filter bubbles that social media channels proliferate, in hopes of answering the question of how we might tame egregious abuses in the redistricting process. How can the press restore faith in the democratic process? And ultimately, how can we achieve post-partisan citizenship? Immediately following the lecture, the Kinder Institute and Truman School will host a panel discussion on speech on campus moderated by MU Professor and Chair of Black Studies Stephanie Shonekan.
Leadership Auditorium, 5:30 pm

Academic Workshops
Anyone interested in attending the academic workshops listed below should contact Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu, for a copy of the papers to be discussed.
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