



Lifelong Learning

A Nonprofit Education Corporation  
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# The Imperial Presidency

Presented by Ted Anagnoson

Mondays, January 28, February 4, 11, 18  
1:30-4:30 pm  
Maravilla Clubhouse  
5486 Calle Real, Goleta

The imperial presidency idea is that some presidents feel that, for a variety of reasons, the powers of the presidency are simply inadequate, and the president must go beyond the constitution, beyond the laws, beyond the norms--in order to take actions for the good of the nation. At its core, the imperial idea focuses on what has happened to the Presidency and those who occupy the office:



- The tendency for many modern presidents to go clearly beyond the constitutional powers of the presidency, which are vague. Why are they vague? Why are not the constitutional powers and written laws adequate- for president after president?
- The increase in advisory bodies, many of which rival the cabinet departments.
- The increase in staff, mostly not confirmed by Congress.

In this four-session course, we are going to trace the history of the imperial presidency from the beginning of the republic to the present day, ending with the question of what things President Obama has done that might qualify him as being "imperial" too. Most of our time will be spent on Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and more modern presidents, including George W. Bush and Barack Obama. For those of us who grew up post-World War II, it will be a good reminder of the complexity of those events.



In short, the course addresses the question that has faced the United States since the beginning of the republic. How are we to have a government by laws, a government limited by the actions of Congress as reflecting the wishes of the public, and still have a government that is respected in the world, that can carry out the normal functions of a government, and can do so under the authority of a constitution almost 225 years old?



*Cont.*

## ENROLLMENT FORM: **The Imperial Presidency**

**VISTAS Members \$40, Non-members \$60**  
Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to: **VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc. P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228**

**Please enroll by January 14, 2013**

**Please carpool if you can--parking is limited**

**Reading:** There are two major book-length studies of the imperial presidency, one by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *The Imperial Presidency* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1973, with a 1989 epilog and a 2004 introduction), and the other by Andrew Rudalevige, *The New Imperial Presidency, Renewing Presidential Power After Watergate* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 2006). For those less ambitious, we will also distribute one or two articles about George W. Bush and Barack Obama for course participants.

**Biography:** Ted Anagnoson is a visiting professor of political science at UCSB and emeritus professor of political science at Cal State LA. He's worked for the federal government in Washington in the policy office of the Department of Health and Human Services and taught a variety of courses in the areas of American government and public policy. He has taught in New Zealand twice, at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch and at the University of Waikato in Hamilton. He is the 2012-13 chair of the VISTAS curriculum committee.



### VISTAS Winter 2013 Calendar

Seminar/Event	Inclusive Dates	Time	Venue
Documentary Club	Thurs, Dec 20	2:00pm	Maravilla Theater
Theater in the Making (5)	Tues, Jan 8	6:30pm	UCSB
World's Great Religions (5)	Mon, Jan 14 thru Feb 13	9:30am-12:30pm	Maravilla Clubhouse
The Shakespeare Debate	Tues, Jan 22	9:30-12:30m	Maravilla Clubhouse
Winter Social	Sun, Jan 27		Music Acad of West
Imperial Presidency (3)	Mon, Jan 28 thru Feb 18	1:30-4:30pm	Maravilla Clubhouse
Health Care Ethics-From Paternalism to Autonomy	Tues, Feb 5	1:30-4:30pm	Maravilla Theater
Short Stories (3)	Wed, Feb 20 thru Mar 6	1:30-4:30pm	TBA
The Lady in Gold (5)	Fri, Mar 1 thru 29	9:30-12:30pm	TBA
Citizens of London (3)	Mon, Mar 11, 18 & 25	1:30-4:30pm	Goleta Library



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