

## Personality and Leadership in the White House

This course will focus on the personality and leadership skills of three presidents: Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump, and compare them with Abraham Lincoln, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon.

Using a framework created by Professor Fred Greenstein, we will examine his categories of political leadership and policy vision as well as personality dimensions such as cognitive style and emotional intelligence. We will also examine works from the field of psychobiography to deepen our understanding of personality and its effect on presidential performance.

Participants should purchase Fred Greenstein's *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Barack Obama, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.* In preparation for the first class please read the chapters on Clinton and Obama. Dr. Greenstein, professor emeritus of politics at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University will visit one of our classes to discuss his work and answer questions. There will also be other readings suggested, including Greenstein's *Presidents and the Dissolution of the Union* and *The Mind of Donald Trump* by Dan McAdams.

My interest in the field of personality and politics stems from my formal training and long career as a clinical psychologist combined with my lifelong interest in history and politics. I believe that it is vitally important that we elect presidents not only on political issues but also with understanding of their personalities. The course will include lectures and discussion with an emphasis on encouraging participants to share their ideas and opinions. I look forward to our class.

### To purchase:

Greenstein, Fred I. 2009. *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Barack Obama, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.* Princeton & Oxford: Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ

### Suggested reading:

Gartner, John D. 2008. *In Search of Bill Clinton: A Psychological Biography.* St. Martin's Press, New York, NY.

Greenstein, Fred I. 2013. *Presidents and the Dissolution of the Union: Leadership Style from Polk to Lincoln.* Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

**Leader:** David Brown is a licensed clinical psychologist in New Jersey who practiced for forty-five years and has long been interested in the intersection of personality and politics.

**Wednesdays:** 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, 8 weeks: September 26 through November 14

**Location:** Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville