

Personality and Leadership in the White House: Three Generals Who Became President: Washington, Grant, and Eisenhower

Using a framework created by Professor Fred Greenstein we will examine his categories of political leadership and policy, vision, communication and organization and his personality dimensions such as cognitive style and emotional intelligence.

First we will study George Washington. As Fred Greenstein stated, “the powers accorded the presidency by the constitution would not have been so great if the founders had not cast their eyes towards Washington as President.” Next we will study Ulysses S. Grant. During his presidency Grant worked towards providing real citizenship and justice for freed slaves and towards crushing the Ku Klux Klan. Finally we will study Dwight D. Eisenhower who became, in the work of Fred Greenstein, a skilled, tough politician and effective leader.

My interest in the field of personality and politics stems from my formal training and long career as a clinical psychologist combined with a lifelong interest in history and politics. I believe that it is vitally important that we elect presidents not only on political issues but also on an understanding of their personalities.

This course will include lectures and discussions with an emphasis on encouraging participants to share their ideas and opinions. I look forward to our class.

Here are the three books central to the course:

Greenstein, Fred. 2004. *Inventing the Job of President*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Chernow, Ron. 2017. *Grant*. New York, New York: Penguin Press.

Greenstein, Fred. 1982. *The Hidden Hand Presidency: Eisenhower as a Leader*. New York, New York: Basic Books Inc.

There will also be supplemental reading suggestions on the three generals.

Leader: David Brown is a licensed clinical psychologist in New Jersey who practiced for 45 years and has long been interested in the intersection of personality and politics.

Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. to noon, 8 weeks: September 25 through December 4 (no class on 10/9, 10/16, 11/27)

Location: Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, Maximum 18 seats