Course Title: Constitutional Crises from the Founding to the Present
Course Code: LAW 106
Instructor: William H. Simon

Required Books/Materials:
There is no need to bring the book to class, but it would be a good idea to bring a copy of the Constitution. A printable pdf of the constitutional text is on the course website. Lincoln’s addresses and King’s letter can be easily found on-line. The two videos were available on YouTube as of the time of the preparation of this syllabus. Many public libraries have DVDs of them or can enable you to stream them.

Grade Options and Requirements:
☐ No Grade Requested (NGR)
  o This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
☐ Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  o Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Weekly Outline:
1. January 12: The Adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights (with some attention to the Election of 1800 [Adams-Jefferson]).
   Benedict, 64-88, 101-02
   Constitution, Art. VII, Am XII.

2. January 19: The Civil War
   Benedict, 155-56, 172-78, 183-95 [156-72 is also recommended but some may find it excessively dense]
   Abraham Lincoln, “House Divided” Speech (June 16, 1858) (Google)
   Constitution, Art. I, sec. 8, cl. 10-16; sec. 9, cl. 2; Art. II, sec.s 2-3; Art. IV, sec. 2, cl. 3, sec. 3

3. January 26: Reconstruction
   Benedict, 198-212
   Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address (Nov. 19, 1863) (Google)
   Constitution, Amendments 13-15

4. February 2: The Election of 1876 [Hayes-Tilden] (with some attention to the Election of 2000 [Bush-)

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
5. February 9: The New Deal
   Benedict, 285-300
   Constitution, Art. III, sec.s 1-2

6. February 16: The Civil Rights Movement
   Benedict, 327-46
   Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail (April 16, 1963) (Google)
   PBS Video, Eyes on the Prize – Episode 6: Bridge to Freedom

7. February 23: Watergate (with some attention to the Clinton impeachment)
   Benedict, 351-59, 415-18
   Constitution, Art II, sec. 1, cl. 8, sec. 3-4; Art. I, sec. 1, cl. 5; sec.3, cl. 6-7
   BBC Video, Watergate [or any of the many videos about Watergate with excerpts from the
   White House tapes, Congressional hearings, and retrospective interviews]

8. March 2: War Powers and the Separation of Powers: Lend-Lease and Iran-Contra
   Benedict, 377-78
   Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., War and the Constitution: Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt
   (1998) [focus on Roosevelt discussion beginning on p. 9] (on Canvas)
   Wikipedia, Iran-Contra Affair
   Constitution, Article II; Article I, sec. 8.

   Benedict, 449-66, 469-88
   Constitution, Art II

10. March 16: Trump-Era Issues: The Impeachment and the 2020 Election