Course Title: First Ladies: A History
Course Code: HIS 51
Instructor: Margo Horn

Course Summary:

By looking at a series of individual first ladies, this course explores the many forces that have shaped the often-complicated role of first lady. How has the institution changed over US history? What were the personalities and commitments of several of the women who held that post? While all first ladies served as role models for women and for wives in particular, in what ways did these first ladies intersect with changing gender roles and engage with the women’s movement? What influence have various first ladies had on their husband’s presidencies and on the nation as a whole? Finally, how did each of these women navigate the many demands of being the president’s wife?

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1, April 23: Introduction to the history of first ladies;
The historic legacy of Abigail Adams

Week 2, April 30: Mary Todd Lincoln and Lou Henry Hoover

Week 3, May 7: Eleanor Roosevelt

Week 4, May 14: Jacqueline Kennedy and Lady Bird Johnson

Week 5, May 21: Betty Ford, Nancy Reagan and Laura Bush

Week 6: May 28: Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, and briefly, Melania Trump
Grade Options and Requirements:

- **No Grade Requested (NGR)**
  - 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)**
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions.

- **Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)**
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions and complete a piece of written work (to be discussed further in class).

*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.*

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650