

THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY

Presented by: Ted Anagnoson

Four Mondays: October 28, November 4, 11, and 18, 2019
9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church, 556 N. Hope Ave., Santa Barbara

❖ The imperial presidency idea centers around the question of whether the powers of the presidency are inadequate—that is, why, for a variety of reasons, presidents go beyond the powers listed in the constitution, beyond the laws, beyond the norms, to take actions for the good of the nation. At its core, the imperial presidency idea is that the president has “inherent” powers to do things not named in the constitution. Modern presidents clearly go beyond the constitutional powers of the presidency, which are vague. Why aren’t the constitutional powers and written laws adequate?

❖ In this four-session course, we will trace the history of the imperial presidency from the writing of the constitution to the present day, ending with things Presidents Obama and Trump have done that might qualify them as “imperial.” Over half of our time will be spent on the period

from Franklin D. Roosevelt to the present. For those of us who grew up post–World War II, it will be a reminder of the complexity of those events.

❖ In sum, the course addresses a question that has faced the United States since the beginning of the republic. How are we to have a government of laws and not men, 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 its normal functions, and can do so under the authority of a constitution almost 225 years old?

❖ The imperial presidency idea got its modern start with the publication of Arthur Schlesinger’s book of the same name that reflected the experience of Franklin Roosevelt and several post-war presidents. He revised the book after the first Nixon administration.



Enrollment form: The Imperial Presidency

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VISTAS members \$50; non-members \$75

➤ **EITHER pay online** on our website by secure credit card through PayPal:
www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/upcoming.html

➤ **OR mail this form** and your check to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc.
P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara CA 93121

Number of persons _____ \$ _____ Check # _____

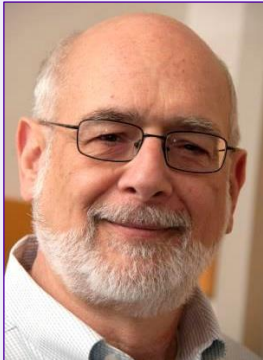
Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

RECOMMENDED READING:

There are two major book-length studies on the subject of the imperial presidency:

- Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *The Imperial Presidency* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1973, with a 1989 epilog and a 2004 introduction).
- Andrew Rudalevige, *The New Imperial Presidency, Renewing Presidential Power After Watergate* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 2006). Available from the University of Michigan Press, <https://bit.ly/2NdFoEW>.



Ted Anagnoson is a professor emeritus of political science at Cal State LA and a former visiting professor at UCSB. He worked for the federal government in Washington in the policy office of the Department of Health and Human Services and has taught a variety of courses in American government and public policy. He taught in New Zealand twice, at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch and at the University of Waikato in Hamilton. He was formerly chair of the VISTAS curriculum committee and president of VISTAS.

VISTAS Calendar

Seminar / Event	Inclusive dates	Time	Venue
Annual Fall Picnic	Sunday, September 8	12:30 pm	Tucker's Grove
Nonfiction Book Club	2nd Thursday monthly	1:30 pm	Vista del Monte/Sierra Madre Lounge
Documentary Film Club	3rd Thursday monthly	2:00 pm	Maravilla Theater
A Roadmap for End-of-Life Decisions	Wed. Sep 11, 18, 25, Oct 2	9:30 am	Bethany Congregational Church
Our Treasures Offshore: The Channel Is.	Tues. Sep 24, Oct 1, 8	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Shakespeare's <i>Measure for Measure</i>	Thurs. Sep 26	9:30 am	Bethany Congregational Church
Trip to the Ensemble Theatre Co.	Sun. Oct 6	2:00 pm	New Vic Theater
Our Santa Barbara Courthouse	Tues. Oct 15, 22	9:30 am	Covarrubias Adobe
The Imperial Presidency	Mon. Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18	9:30 am	Bethany Congregational Church
The Labors of Operatic Love	Tues. Oct 29	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Intimacy Across the Lifespan	Wed. Oct 30, Nov 6, 13	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Church
A Trip to the Opera: <i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Sun. Nov 3	1:45 pm	Granada Theater
Everybody Comes to Rick's (cinema hist.)	Wed. Nov 20, Dec 4, 11, 18	9:30 am	Maravilla Theater
Evolution of Japanese Gardens	Mon. Nov. 25	1:30 pm	Montecito Covenant Ch. + Lotusland
Golden Age of the Hollywood Musical	Mon. Dec 2, 9, 16	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West