

James Madison: Political Theorist and Politician

OLLI Spring Semester, 2022

The readings are intended to complement the lectures. The principal recommendations are given, but additional suggestions for further reading, if interested, are given as well. Some of the articles are available on-line via Google.

WEEK 1

Recommended:

From: Douglass Adair: Fame and the Founding Fathers

Pages 176-200.

This is a summary of Madison's life, written in the 1940s – but still relevant-- by a well-known historian. It should help give an overview to the various lectures in the course.

Additional Suggestion:

From McCoy: Last of the Fathers

Pages 9-33

An overview of Madison the person by his contemporaries as well as a contrast with Jefferson

WEEK 2

Recommended: In Jack Rakove and Colleen Sheehan, editors: The Cambridge Companion to the Federalist

Article by Paul Rahe on Montesquieu and Hume

Pages 230-238 and 247-254

WEEK 3

Recommended: Robert Rutland in Alley, James Madison on Religious Liberty
pages 199-206

Additional Suggestion: From Lance Banning: The Sacred Fire of Liberty: Madison and the Founding. Pages 84-96

WEEK 4

Recommended: From Jack Rakove, Revolutionaries.
Pages 359-365

Recommended: From Noah Feldman: The Three Lives of James Madison
Pages 95-105

Recommended: James Madison: Vices of the Political System of the United States
(from April 1787)

WEEK 5

Recommended: [Google] James Madison Speech June 6, 1787 (to the Convention)

Recommended; Gordon Wood: Power and Liberty pages 74-99

WEEK 6

Recommended: [Google] James Madison to Thomas Jefferson, October 24, 1787
(a letter)

Recommended: [Google]: Thomas Jefferson to James Madison December 20,
1787 (a letter)

Recommended: James Morton Smith: Republic of Letters. Volume 1.
Pages 446-451

Recommended: Douglas Adair: Fame and the Founding Fathers, pages 132-151

Additional Suggestion: Douglass Adair, Fame and the Founding Fathers, pages
106-131

And...Federalist 10, 37, and 51 (Google etc.)

WEEK 7

Recommended: Lance Banning: The Sacred Fire of Liberty,
pages 281-290

Recommended: Ralph Ketchum: Madison, A Biography: pages 327-331

WEEK 8

Recommended: Lynn Uzzell in What Would Madison Do?
(edited Wittes and Nicola): pages 172-191

Recommended: Lance Banning: The Sacred Fire of Liberty, pages 385-395

Recommended: Gordon Wood in Revolutionary Characters . Is there a James Madison Problem? pages 143-172

Additional Suggestion: Colleen Sheehan: James Madison and the Spirit of Republican Self Government, pages 107-123

WEEK 9

Martin Diamond in Moral Foundations of the American Republic (Horwitz, ed).
Pages 75-108

Madison biographies have become something of a cottage industry. There are quite a number of good biographies, quite in contrast to things until the 1970s.

My personal recommendations:

- A shorter biography: Jack Rakove: James Madison and the Creation of the American Republic, 2007. (234 pages plus references) [note that anything by Jack Rakove is worth reading]
- A longer fairly recent and more complete biography: Noah Feldman: The Three Lives of James Madison, 2017. (628 pages plus references)
- The Papers of James Madison- a long-standing project of the University of Virginia and the University of Chicago. All now on-line. A very nice 'short' (900 pages) compendium is Madison: Writings, chosen and edited by Jack Rakove. The Library of America