



## Spring 2015 Lecture Series

**February 5, 2015**

**"Tocqueville on America's Two Foundings: Natural Rights and History"**

**Dr. James W. Ceaser, University of Virginia**

*5:30 PM, MGC 203-205*

James W. Ceaser is the Harry F. Byrd Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. He is the author of over a dozen books on American politics and political thought, including *Presidential Selection* (Princeton, 1979), *Liberal Democracy and Political Science* (Johns Hopkins, 1992), *Reconstructing American* (Yale, 1997), *Nature and History in American Political Development* (Harvard, 2006), and *Designing a Polity* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2010). He has published 66 scholarly articles in journals and anthologies, including essays on Tocqueville and Montesquieu published in the top outlets such as *American Political Science Review* and the *Review of Politics*. Professor Ceaser has also co-authored a series on American Presidential elections that began in 1992. He has held visiting positions at Harvard, Princeton, Oxford, the University of Basel, and the University of Bordeaux. Professor Ceaser is the Chairman of the Academic Council of the Jack Miller Center, a frequent contributor to the popular press, and a frequent commentator on American politics for the *Voice of America for French West Africa*. He received his BA from Kenyon College and his PhD from Harvard.

**February 26, 2015**

**"Muslim Travelers in a Christian Land: Montesquieu's Labyrinthine Persian Letters"**

**Dr. Stuart D. Warner, Roosevelt University**

*5:30 PM, MGC 247*

Stuart D. Warner is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Roosevelt University and the director of its Montesquieu Forum for the Study of Civic Life. Professor Warner previously served as Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago's Committee of Social Thought in 2005 and at the University of Chicago's Center for Study of the Principles of the American Founding in 2007. He has published essays on Locke, Spinoza, Burke, Bentham, Hegel, Hume, Adam Smith, and Montesquieu, and edited editions of the writings of Hume, Michael Polanyi, and James Fitzjames, Stephen. He has edited and translated a bilingual edition of La Rochefoucauld's *Maxims*, and is currently putting the final touches on a translation of Montesquieu's *Persian Letters*, forthcoming from St. Augustine Press. In addition to his current work on Montesquieu, he is working on a translation and interpretation of Descartes' *Discourse on Method* as well as an interpretive essay on Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. He received his BA from Queens College in New York and his PhD from Michigan State University.



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**April 10, 2015**

**"Leo Strauss and the Meaning of Modernity"**

**Dr. Nathan Tarcov, University of Chicago**

*5:30 PM, Hughes Formal Lounge*

Nathan Tarcov is Professor in the Committee on Social Thought, the Department of Political Science, the Committee on International Relations, and the College at the University of Chicago. He was previously on the faculty at Harvard, on the Policy Planning Staff of the U.S. State Department, a Secretary of the Navy Senior Research Fellow at the Naval War College, and a Fellow at the Siemens Foundation. He has had fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Earhart Foundation. He is the author of *Locke's Education for Liberty* (Chicago, 1984), translator of Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy* (Chicago, 1996, with Harvey C. Mansfield), and editor of Locke's *Some Thoughts Concerning Education* and *On the Conduct of Understanding* (Hackett, 1996, with Ruth Grant) and *The Legacy of Rousseau* (Chicago, 1996, with Clifford Orwin). He has published 53 articles for scholarly journals and anthologies on a wide array of topics, including Locke, Machiavelli, the hermeneutics of Leo Strauss and Quentin Skinner, the American founding, and prudence and principle in foreign policy. Tarcov received the University of Chicago's Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. He is also the founder and director of the Leo Strauss Center at the University of Chicago. He received his BA from Cornell and his PhD from Harvard.