



High Noon at the Upcountry History Museum 2016 Spring Schedule

All lectures begin at noon on Wednesdays and last one hour. For more information, contact Furman's Marketing and Public Relations office at 864-294-3107 or vince.moore@furman.edu.

March 16

"Women and U.S. Politics: Understanding the Political Glass Ceiling"

Dr. Liz Smith, Professor of Political Science, Furman University

In a democracy that is over 200 years old, the candidacy of Hillary Clinton represents the possibility of a historic first—a female president of the United States of America. Today, women constitute 19.3% of the U.S. House of Representatives and 20% of the Senate, putting the U.S. in 94th place in the world in terms of women's representation in the national legislature. How do we explain the slow march of women into politics? Does it matter that so few women hold office? What are the prospects for the future in terms of breaking that political glass ceiling?

March 23

"Schools and Inequality, Revisited"

Dr. Joseph J. Merry, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Furman University

What is the relationship between the education system and broader inequalities in society? Do schools reproduce existing inequalities or can we view them as the 'Great Equalizer'? The answers to these questions have profound implications for how we think about education reform and how to best serve students in our nation's schools. Dr. Merry will discuss a growing body of evidence that suggests we ought to rethink many of our traditional assumptions about schools.

March 30

"Oops. How to Undo a Campaign in 30 Seconds or Less"

Dr. Danielle Vinson, Professor of Political Science, Furman University

Recent history is littered with candidates whose political campaigns have been undone by an unguarded comment, unfortunate debate moment, or a bad campaign ad. We'll look at some of the most memorable mishaps and attempt to understand why some comments and campaign decisions have wrecked campaigns while other candidates like Donald Trump seem to be able to say or do anything without slowing their momentum.

April 6

“Retirement: More than Money, Much More”

Dr. Jack Hansen, Author, *Shaping a Life of Significance for Retirement*

What gives satisfaction and fulfillment once we leave full-time career pursuits behind? Is it simply a matter of adequate financial resources? Dr. Hansen, a member of Furman’s OLLI program and a former NASA executive, will offer a very different perspective, growing out of extensive, in-depth interviews he has conducted with retired men and women from all parts of the U.S. What emerges is the importance of preparing for and living into the personal and relational dimensions of this new phase of life.

April 13

“What We Remember, What We Forget: Why Southern History Matters Today”

Dr. Steve O’Neill, Professor of History, Furman University

The recent controversies over the Confederate flag and Benjamin Tillman Hall at Clemson University remind us that symbols esteemed in our past sometimes jump forth to haunt our present. And that raises some fundamental questions. What, if anything, do people in the present owe to their past? Are reparations for misdeeds—or even crimes—by one group against another ever warranted? What about official apologies or the toppling of statues? Is it better just to forget the past in an effort to start anew? Dr. O’Neill will address those questions and examine how each generation remembers its past, using Southern and South Carolina history as a guide.