Since October 1, 2023, Madison’s Notes—the James Madison Program’s official podcast—has released 15 new episodes and garnered over 65,000 downloads. This season featured a five-episode “Speak Freely” series, with guests including Donald Downs and Keith Whittington, Ted Cruz, Nadine Strossen, Scott Atlas, and Niall Ferguson.

Highlights from this season include:
- Providence and Power: Jewish Statesmanship from King David to David Ben Gurion
- A Conversation with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik *10
- Speak Out: ‘Unwoke’
- A Conversation with Senator Ted Cruz ‘92
- The History of Liberalism
- A Conversation with Alan Kahan ’80
- Jewish War Ethics, Ancient to Contemporary
- A Conversation with Rabbi Shlomo Brody
- Freedom in the Academy
- A Conversation with Niall Ferguson

The James Madison Program has seen continued engagement with its social media outlets: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. *Part 1 of Niall Ferguson’s lecture series, Liberty in a Cold Climate, became the most viewed video on the James Madison Program’s YouTube channel, garnering 21k views in just two weeks.

Photo provided by Niall Ferguson
The James Madison Program welcomed 11 new Visiting and Postdoctoral Fellows in September 2023. Fellows pursue their own research and writing, participate in courses and seminars, and contribute to the intellectual life of Princeton University and the Department of Politics. They come to Princeton from around the world and bring a wealth of expertise on topics spanning political philosophy, history, literature, law, religion, political economy, and ethics.

2023 - 2024 Visiting and Postdoctoral Fellows

Photos: Fotobuddy Photography

Photo: Debby Parker
Megan Brand
2023-24 Thomas W. Smith Postdoctoral Research Associate; Ph.D. in International Relations and Comparative Public Law, Princeton University

John Breen
2023-24 Visiting Fellow; Georgia Leithal Professor of Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Kevin Burns
2023-24 Visiting Fellow; Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Economics, Christendom College

Michael Gonzalez
2023-24 Thomas W. Smith Postdoctoral Research Associate; Ph.D. in Political Science, Baylor University

Aaron Herold
2023-24 Visiting Fellow; Associate Professor & Chair of Political Science and International Relations, SUNY Geneseo

Zena Hitz
2023-24 Visiting Fellow; Tutor at St. John’s College

Hugh Liebert
2023-24 Visiting Fellow; Professor of American Politics, United States Military Academy

Anthony Marsh
2023-24 John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Research Fellow; Ph.D. in Philosophy, Columbia University

Oliver Traldi
2023-24 John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Research Fellow; Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

Ian Tuttle
2023-24 John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Research Fellow; Ph.D. in Political Theory, The Catholic University of America

Qian (Habi) Zhang
2023-24 Postdoctoral Research Associate; Ph.D. in Political Science, Purdue University
Public Events

Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, the James Madison Program engaged the academic and public spheres with a series of lectures and events, bringing discussions on law, education, history, and democracy to the forefront. The Antonin Scalia Constitution Day Lecture was notably delivered by Sherif Girgis ‘08, who dissected the Supreme Court’s nuanced adherence to traditionalism within originalism, igniting a dialogue on the interpretation of constitutional rights and precedents in contemporary high-profile cases.

The conversation on the essence and purpose of liberal arts learning was revitalized during the Princeton First-Year Families Weekend through “Freeing the Mind: What Truly Matters in a Princeton Education,” presented by esteemed faculty members Sanjeev Kulkarni, Robert P. George, and Jennifer Rexford.

A highlight of the year was the sold-out screening of “Coolidge: Rediscovering an American President” at the Princeton Garden Theatre, featuring a post-screening discussion with Steve Forbes and Allen C. Guelzo, offering an intimate exploration into the life and legacy of President Calvin Coolidge.


The Annual Herbert W. Vaughan Lecture on America’s Founding Principles—the James Madison Program’s 2024 Black History Event—was marked by Lucas Morel’s analysis of Abraham Lincoln’s pivotal role in the 1860 election and the future of slavery in America, underscoring Lincoln’s principled politics and his unwavering commitment to equality and freedom.

These diverse events—spanning historical analyses, educational philosophies, and constitutional discussions—collectively enriched the intellectual life of Princeton and its broader community, fostering a deepened appreciation for the complexities of democracy, liberty, and the enduring power of thoughtful discourse.
Undergraduate Fellows Forum

The Madison Program kicked off the 2023–24 academic year with an Undergraduate Open House and Free Speech event. Professor Keith Whittington and Myles McKnight ’23 discussed the free speech rights of Princeton students, after which Professor Robert George introduced new students to the Madison Program’s Undergraduate Fellows Forum.

This fall, our Undergraduate Fellows enjoyed our latest addition to UFF Programming, “Madison Monday Meet Ups”: a biweekly get-together in which students engaged in open dialogue about the news of the day, contemporary social issues on and off campus, and more—all over a casual lunch with Professor George and other members of the Princeton faculty.

On October 31st, members of the Undergraduate Fellows Forum were privileged to visit the U.S. Supreme Court as guests of Justice Neil Gorsuch. Students attended oral arguments for O’Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier (22-324) and Lindke v. Freed (22-611), before meeting with Justice Gorsuch afterwards for a discussion on law.

Free Speech Event and UFF Open House

The Undergraduate Fellows Forum also hosts private, off-the-record teas. In February, Undergraduate Fellows had the opportunity to discuss the nature of a career in law with U.S. Circuit Judge Stephanos Bibas.

On December 8th, Undergraduate Fellows spent the day in New York City, where they took part in a seminar-style discussion on immigration at the Manhattan Institute with several of MI’s noted Fellows. Afterwards, the students toured both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, where they visited the National Museum of Immigration.

On March 19th, members of the Undergraduate Fellows Forum were invited once again to visit the Supreme Court, this time as guests of Justice Elena Kagan. Students attended oral arguments for Diaz v. United States (23-14) and Truck Insurance Exchange v. Kaiser Gypsum Company, Inc. (22-1079) before meeting with Justice Kagan for Q&A.

Tea with Judge Stephanos Bibas

Photos: Fotobuddy Photography and JMP Staff

Monday Meet Ups
In February 2024, members of the Forum were invited to the U.S. Capitol. There, students toured the U.S. Senate Chamber and met with several prominent policy advisors and counsellors in the House of Representatives. The group is pictured here on the Speaker’s balcony.
Convivium at Oxford 2024: Athens and Jerusalem

This summer, the Madison Program will return to England for its second annual Convivium at Oxford. Held once again at the University of Oxford’s Jesus College, the Convivium seminar series provides 15 of the Program’s Undergraduate Fellows the opportunity to spend a week with peers reading and discussing classic texts of the Western tradition. This year’s theme is “Athens and Jerusalem,” a reference to the rich philosophic legacy of ancient Greece and the rich spiritual legacy of ancient Israel. Readings include Plato, Sophocles, Genesis, and Job.

LEADERSHIP

Shilo Brooks, Executive Director, James Madison Program and Lecturer in Politics, Princeton University

Michael Schmidt, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, James Madison Program, Princeton University

Course Offerings

**SPRING 2024**

**POL 332**
The Art of Statesmanship and the Political Life
Instructor: Shilo Brooks
Executive Director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions
Lecturer in the Department of Politics

**POL 316**
Civil Liberties
Instructor: Robert P. George
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence
Director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions

**FALL 2023**

**POL 315**
Constitutional Interpretation
Instructor: Robert P. George
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence
Director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions

**FRS 183**
The Collapse of Civilization
Instructor: Shilo Brooks
Executive Director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions
Lecturer in the Department of Politics

**POL 331/HUM 305**
Abraham Lincoln Politics: Concepts, Conflict, and Context
Instructor: Allen C. Guelzo
Thomas W. Smith Distinguished Research Scholar
Director, James Madison Program Initiative on Politics and Statesmanship

23% of Politics Enrollments

The James Madison Program’s sponsored courses account for 357 of the 1538 enrollments in the Politics department’s lecture courses in Spring 2024.

**FRS 130**
Contours of American Thought
Instructor: Allen C. Guelzo
Thomas W. Smith Distinguished Research Scholar
Director, James Madison Program Initiative on Politics and Statesmanship

**POL 563/PHI 526**
Philosophy of Law
Instructor: Robert P. George
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence
Director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions

**POL 316**
Civil Liberties
Instructor: Robert P. George
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence
Director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions

**POL 332**
The Art of Statesmanship and the Political Life
Instructor: Shilo Brooks
Executive Director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions
Lecturer in the Department of Politics

**LEADERSHIP**

Shilo Brooks, Executive Director, James Madison Program and Lecturer in Politics, Princeton University
Michael Schmidt, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, James Madison Program, Princeton University
James Madison Summer Seminars

Statesmanship in American History
In cooperation with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and hosted and funded by the Madison Program, Statesmanship in American History is a weeklong professional development event on the study of statecraft for high school teachers. Statesmanship, or statecraft, is the pursuit of politics at the highest level, beyond the levels of organization, mobilization, planning, and leadership. In these turbulent and polarized times, Americans need statecraft more than ever, and more than ever, we need to know what it is, how it can be recognized, and whether it can be cultivated. From George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Frederick Douglass to the present day, participants consider who our statesmen have been, and what our students need to know to understand the difficult art of political statecraft. This seminar is supported by the Jack Miller Center.

FACULTY
Allen C. Guelzo
Thomas W. Smith Distinguished Research Scholar and Director of the James Madison Program’s Initiative on Politics and Statesmanship, Princeton University
Shilo Brooks
Executive Director of the James Madison Program and Lecturer in the Department of Politics, Princeton University
Matthew J. Franck
Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Radford University and Senior Fellow, The Witherspoon Institute
Nathan McAlister
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History’s 2010 National History Teacher of the Year

The Principles of American Constitutionalism
Formerly known as Principles of American Politics, this program for upper-level high-school students and rising college freshmen is taught as a one-week seminar. Participants study the fundamental questions of equality and liberty in American political life. What have Americans meant by these principles from the founding to the present? What is their relationship with one another, with political power, with law, and with the private sphere of civil society? Are they in tension or in harmony? Readings for the seminar include The Federalist, Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, and other foundational texts from American history.

Funded by the Bouton Law Lecture Fund

FACULTY
S. Adam Seagrave
Associate Professor, School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, Arizona State University
Sarah Beth Kitch
Associate Director, Civitas Institute, The University of Texas at Austin

The Moral Foundations of Law
Under the direction of Professor Gerard V. Bradley of Notre Dame Law School, this seminar covers some of the most contested areas of inquiry in legal philosophy today, including legal positivism, practical reason, human good and positive law, morals legislation, pluralityism, crime and punishment, property, and rights and duties. The seminar is designed as an intensive weeklong program investigating the relationship between sound norms of critical morality and civil law. Seminar discussions examine key contemporary legal debates, such as religious freedom and conscience, beginning and end of life issues, and marriage legislation.

FACULTY
Gerard V. Bradley
Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame Law School
John M. Finnis
Professor Emeritus of Law & Legal Philosophy, University of Oxford; Biolinchi Family Professor of Law Emeritus, University of Notre Dame Law School
Robert P. George
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program, Princeton University
Adam MacLeod
Professor of Law, St. Mary’s University School of Law

Spring 2024 James Madison Program
Incoming Visiting and Postdoctoral Fellows

Madeleine Armstrong
2024-25 Postdoctoral Research Associate;
Ph.D. in History, University of Cambridge

Amanda Arulanandam
2024-25 Postdoctoral Research Associate;
Ph.D. in Political Science,
University of Toronto

Evelyn Boyden
2024-25 John and Daria Barry
Postdoctoral Research Fellow;
Ph.D. candidate in Political Theory,
Harvard University

Nathan Davis
2024-25 Postdoctoral Research Associate;
Ph.D. candidate in Political Science,
Boston College

Djair Dias Filho
2024-25 John and Daria Barry
Postdoctoral Research Fellow;
Ph.D. candidate in Religions of Mediterranean
Antiquity, Princeton University

Michael Hawley
2024-25 Visiting Fellow;
Assistant Professor of Political Science,
University of Houston

Mary Keys
2024-25 Visiting Fellow;
Professor of Political Science,
University of Notre Dame

Samuel Mead
2024-25 Postdoctoral Research Associate;
Ph.D. candidate in Government,
University of Texas at Austin

Matthew Reising
2024-25 John and Daria Barry
Postdoctoral Research Fellow;
Ph.D. candidate in Political Science,
Baylor University

Bridget Safranek Knuffke
2024-25 Postdoctoral Research Associate;
Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy,
The Catholic University of America