

# James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions



Presents a Public Conference  
Cosponsored by  
The Bouton Law Lecture Fund

## *Public Morality and Liberal Society: The Political Thought of Harry Clor*

**Thursday, April 29, 2010**

**Prospect House Library, Princeton University**

Does the political community have a legitimate interest in promoting standards of decency and in restricting indecency? Is the law properly concerned with *public morality*? If so, then in a society that values freedom of expression, what are the legitimate *means* by which public morality can be fostered? In particular, are obscenity and pornography properly regarded merely as matters of private preference, or are they matters of public concern and legitimate subjects of legal regulation and even prohibition? Related to these questions is the status of *moderation* in public and personal life. Is moderation, or self-control, a *civic* virtue and therefore something to be cultivated in a liberal democracy? What is it, and why should we as individuals and as a political society want it? Finally, what is the best way to equip ourselves to think about these often controversial questions? In particular, can a liberal education, one that takes seriously classical writings and perspectives, bring us closer to the truth about the moral dimension of personal and political life than is otherwise available to us?

To discuss these questions of great cultural consequence, the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions is hosting a conference on the political thought of Harry Clor, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Kenyon College. Clor's scholarship, which includes the books *Obscenity and Public Morality: Censorship in a Liberal Society*, *Public Morality and Liberal Society*, and *On Moderation: Defending an Ancient Virtue in a Modern World*, has been at the center of the scholarly debate on the conference's topic for more than 40 years. We are pleased to bring together a distinguished group of political, constitutional, and cultural theorists, including Professor Clor himself, to revisit the leading themes and arguments of Clor's work, and to consider the teaching art of this celebrated practitioner of liberal education at the college level.

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**Conference Sessions in Prospect House Library  
Princeton University Campus**

**Thursday, April 29, 2010**

**10:00 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Free Speech and Public Morality in a Free Society**

Presenter: **Walter Berns**, *American Enterprise Institute*

Respondents: **Rochelle Gurstein**, *Independent Scholar*

**Benjamin Kleinerman**, *Michigan State University*

Chair: **Robert P. George**, *Princeton University*

**1:15 - 3:00 p.m.**

**On Moderation: A Book Discussion**

Presenter: **Fred E. Baumann**, *Kenyon College*

Respondents: **James W. Ceaser**, *University of Virginia*

**Diana J. Schaub**, *Loyola College of Maryland*

Chair: **Pamela K. Jensen**, *Kenyon College*

**3:15-4:45 p.m.**

**Harry Clor as Teacher**

Panelists: **Richard Baehr**, *American Thinker*

**Steven J. Heyman**, *Chicago-Kent College of Law*

**Judy Hoffman**, *Attorney-at-Law*

**Frederick G. Tiffany**, *Wittenberg University*

Chair: **Kirk R. Emmert**, *Kenyon College*

**Conference Discussants:**

**Martha Bayles**, *Boston College*; **Andrew Busch**, *Princeton University and Claremont McKenna College*; **John J. Dinan**, *Princeton University and Wake Forest University*; **Peter S. Field**, *Princeton University and University of Canterbury*; **Alberto Nones**, *Princeton University*; **Richard A. Samuelson**, *Princeton University and California State University, San Bernardino*; **Catherine E. Wilson**, *Princeton University and Villanova University*