



**VISITING
SCHOLAR
PROGRAM**

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Public Lecture Offerings

Nostalgia and Nationalism: Is there a Connection?

Many political commentators have warned about the resurgence of nationalism in American politics. We see political calls to put America first, to maintain traditional values, and to resist immigration. Behind many of these comments there seems to be a wistfulness for a lost time when the United States was more powerful and life was simpler. This talk will explore the connections between a certain nostalgia for the 1950's and American nationalism.

Can We Be Civil? Prophetic Indictment and Call-Out Culture in American Public Life

Pleas to be "civil" in our political and social dialogue in the news media are often followed by demands to call out discrimination and injustice wherever we see it. Can the two forms of interaction co-exist? Or do they cancel each other out? This lecture will examine the tensions between the two types of discourse by referring back to a characteristically American form of political rhetoric: prophetic indictment, which finds its roots in Puritan Massachusetts but whose reach has extended to our own day.

Classroom Discussion Topics

Religious Liberty and Freedom of Conscience after *Dobbs v. Jackson*

For the past fifty years, abortion was a constitutionally protected right throughout the United States. But in June 2022, the Supreme Court handed down *Dobbs v. Jackson*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and returned the question of regulating abortion to the states. This enormous change will raise new questions of religious liberty and freedom of conscience. Before *Dobbs*, those raising claims of conscience were generally morally opposed to participating in or funding abortion, many on religious grounds. After *Dobbs*, however, claims of conscience are being raised in states prohibiting abortion by people who believe they have a right—or sometimes an obligation—to perform an abortion, at least in some cases. This workshop will explore the new tensions between individual conscience and public morality precipitated by *Dobbs v. Jackson*.