



**ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS!
THE INSTITUTE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY ANNOUNCES
THE ROBERT H. SMITH SEMINAR FOR FALL 2009:**



**LINCOLN'S CONSTITUTION
Akhil Amar and James Oakes**

DESCRIPTION:

Time and again the central issues and debates of Lincoln's presidency drew him back to the Constitution. The seminar will address some of the most important constitutional questions that Lincoln himself addressed: What rights and protections did the slaveholders have under the Constitution? Was secession constitutional, or was the Union perpetual under the Constitution? Did emancipation violate the constitutional right of property? What were the constitutional war powers of the presidency? Under what conditions could the president constitutionally suspend *habeas corpus*? What effect did emancipation have on the citizenship status of the former slaves, and free blacks generally? And who got to decide these constitutional issues: Congress, the Supreme Court, or Lincoln himself?

INSTRUCTORS:

Akhil Amar, Yale Law School, and **James Oakes**, Graduate Center, City University of New York, will lead the seminar.

Professor Amar is the Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, where he teaches constitutional law at both Yale College and Yale Law School. Co-editor of a leading constitutional law casebook, *Processes of Constitutional Decision making*, Amar has also written several books, including *The Constitution and Criminal Procedure: First Principles*, *The Bill of Rights: Creation and Reconstruction*, and most recently, *America's Constitution: A Biography*.

Professor Oakes is a Distinguished Professor of History at the CUNY Graduate Center. He is a winner of the 2008 Lincoln Prize for his book *The Radical and the Republican: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln and the Triumph of Antislavery Politics*. His previous books include *The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders* and *Slavery and Freedom: An Interpretation of the Old South*.

MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

Thursday afternoons, 1:00–3:00 p.m., September 17, 24, and October 1, 15, 22, and 29, 2009. The seminar will meet at the New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, New York City.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

The seminar is designed for graduate students and junior faculty in history, political science, law, and related disciplines. All participants will be expected to complete the assigned readings and participate in seminar discussions. Although the Institute cannot offer academic credit directly for the seminar, students may be able to earn graduate credit through their home departments by completing an independent research project in conjunction with the seminar. Please consult with your advisor and/or director of graduate studies about these possibilities. Space is limited, so applicants should send a copy of their c.v. and a short statement on how this seminar will be useful to them in their research, teaching, or professional development. Materials will be accepted only by email at MMarcus@nyhistory.org until **August 30**. Successful applicants will be notified soon thereafter. For further information, please contact Maeva Marcus at (202) 994-6562 or e-mail icsgw@law.gwu.edu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

There is no tuition or other charge for this seminar, though participants will be expected to acquire the assigned books on their own. Modest assistance with travel expenses from outside the New York metropolitan area will be available.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE:

The Graduate Institute for Constitutional History is the nation's premier institute dedicated to ensuring that future generations of Americans understand the substance and historical development of the U.S. Constitution. Located at the New-York Historical Society and the George Washington University Law School, the Institute is co-sponsored by the American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, American Political Science Association, and Association of American Law Schools. The Institute prepares junior scholars and college instructors to convey to their readers and students the important role the Constitution has played in shaping American society. The Institute also provides a national forum for the preparation and dissemination of humanistic, interdisciplinary scholarship on American constitutional history.



The Graduate Institute for Constitutional History is supported, in part, by a "We the People" challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.