

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS A DAY OF LEARNING WITH ONE DAY UNIVERSITY

*Renowned professors from Yale, Brown, and Penn to give their best one-hour lecture*

Philadelphia, PA (November 13, 2009) – The National Constitution Center announces a new partnership with One Day University, which provides working adults who have a passion for learning, but do not necessarily have the time to commit to a full semester of classes, with access to the nation’s most acclaimed professors. The inaugural program will take place at the Center on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. Participants will hear three 60-minute lectures about the Constitution from leading American university professors. One Day University selects speakers by visiting top universities in search of professors who have won numerous teaching awards and have received the best evaluations from students. Admission is \$219, which includes the lectures, a light lunch, and a private tour of *Signers’ Hall*. Registration is required by calling 1.800.219.1815 or by visiting [www.onedayu.com](http://www.onedayu.com).

The following lectures will be offered during the December 5<sup>th</sup> program:

**Course: The Untold History of the US Constitution**

**Instructor: Akhil Reed Amar, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University**

Few documents in human history have been as momentous or thoroughly studied as the creation of the American Constitution; but, at its birth, the Constitution was far more democratic and more pro-slavery than most citizens realize. An unprecedented number of people were allowed to vote on it, but it also created a warped electoral system that overrepresented America’s plantation class. The result? No president or cabinet member was openly anti-slavery until 1861. Beginning with the Constitutional

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## ADD ONE/ONE DAY UNIVERSITY

Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, Professor Akhil Reed Amar will explore the surprising ways major events in American history have shaped the Constitution, from the settling of the West to the Vietnam War. He will also explain why the Founders thought it was imperative for the president to be thirty-five years old and a citizen from birth.

**Akhil Reed Amar** is the Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University. He teaches constitutional law to both undergraduates and law students, and is the recipient of the William Clyde DeVane Medal for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence. Professor Amar is considered one of the nation's leading scholars on the Constitution and has written extensively on the subject for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New Republic*. He is also the author of *America's Constitution: A Biography*.

### **Course: Constitution 2009 - What Would the Founders Say?**

**Instructor: Wendy Schiller, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Brown University**

Is the United States the democratic republic that our Founders envisioned? Are the American principles of government, reflected in our Constitution, still in place today? What would the Founders say about the current struggle over war powers between the executive and congressional branches? What would their position be on modern-day gun control, gay marriage, and the role of religion in civil and political life? This course will explore the ideas and beliefs that influenced key actors in our nation's founding and will assess the state of American democracy today in light of their expectations. The lecture will examine the writings of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and even some of lesser known, but equally important founders, such as Mercy Otis Warren. The aim of the course is to encourage participants to reflect on the relevance of the Founders' views today, and to consider whether the American system of government is exportable.

**Wendy Schiller** is a Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Brown University. She is an expert in the field of the U.S. Congress and political representation, and is the recent recipient of a National Science Foundation grant to

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study party conflict and factionalism in the U.S. Senate. Professor Schiller has served as a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution and is a six-time recipient of the Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award at Brown. She is an editorial board member of the *Journal of Politics* and has been published widely on the topic of Congress, including the book, *The Contemporary Congress*, which she co-authored with Burdett Loomis.

**Course: The US Constitution and the Rest of the World**

**Instructor: William Burke-White, Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School**

Constitutions come in a variety of shapes and sizes, yet all seek to limit and regulate the powers of government. This lecture will examine the U.S. Constitution from a comparative perspective, considering how and why it has been (relatively) successful at both guaranteeing individual liberties and creating effective governmental structures. Participants will see the U.S. Constitution through comparisons with historical attempts at rights guarantees, such as the 2,500 year old “Cylinder” of Cyrus the Great, the Constitution of Athens, and the Magna Carta, as contrasted with other modern constitutions in other countries. The final part of the lecture will consider whether reliance by U.S. judges on foreign constitutions and judicial interpretations corrupts our own Constitution.

**William Burke-White** is a Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he recently received the Robert A. Gorman Award for Excellence in Teaching. Previously, he was a Lecturer and Senior Special Assistant to the Dean at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. Burke-White holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a Ph.D. in international relations from Cambridge University (where he was a J. William Fulbright Scholar), and a B.A. from Harvard College. He is on leave as a member of the Obama administration Foreign Policy Planning Staff.

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## ADD THREE/ONE DAY UNIVERSITY

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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