Overview Discussion Topics First Women by Kate Brower

Four 90 minute meetings UNT Robson Ranch * Kaye Nubel facilitator

- Class Title: First Women: The Grace and Power of America’s Modern First Ladies (Session 1)
  - Tuesday, October 17, 2017; 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM
  - Introductions * The Political Wife * Sisterhood of 1600

- Class Title: First Women: The Grace and Power of America’s Modern First Ladies (Session 2)
  - Thursday, October 19, 2017; 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM
  - Profiles in Courage * Motherhood. * Supporting Actors/Good Wife part 1

- Class Title: First Women: The Grace and Power of America’s Modern First Ladies (Session 3)
  - Tuesday, October 24, 2017; 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM
  - Supporting Actors/Good Wife part 2 * Wing vs West Wing * Bad Blood

- Class Title: First Women: The Grace and Power of America’s Modern First Ladies (Session 4)
  - Thursday, October 26, 2017; 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM.
  - Epilogue Ladies First * Thoughts on book * Ideas for future discussions Olli

These discussions are limited to 20 participants to ensure all get to participate in the discussion. If you cannot attend a session, please notify registrar Jordan Williams as soon as possible as we have a large waitlist of people who will take your place for that session. Jordan.williams@unt.edu

Note: Topics are chapter headings in First Women
Research media for current news on First Ladies
Optional activities & exercises as time allows

9-18-17 updated
Detailed Discussion Topics First Women by Kate Brower

Four 90 minute meetings UNT Robson Ranch * Professor Kaye Nubel facilitator

- Class Title: First Women: The Grace and Power of America’s Modern First Ladies

I. (Session 1) Tuesday October 17, 2017; 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM
   A. Class Business
      1. Introductions *attendance & wait list.*book organization of topics vs discussion organization *Ideas future discussions *characteristics of an effective discussion *optional exercises as time allows *current media *preview of course
   B. Chapter 1: The Political Wife
      1. Introduction to First Ladies challenges, accomplishments & legacies.
      2. There is no job description for first ladies…. Be thinking of one.
   C. Chapter 2: Sisterhood of 1600
      1. Discuss friendships personal, unlikely & complicated.
         a) Ways they kept in touch & supported one another.
      2. Some first ladies enjoyed being first lady & the White House experience—some did not. Discuss.

II. (Session 2) Thursday October 19, 2017; 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM
   A. Chapter 3: Profiles in Courage
      1. Author picked just two first ladies for this discussion: Jackie & Betty
         a) Discussion of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy & Cuban Missile Crisis.
            (1) Do you think she should have stayed? Put her children in harm’s Way? Made her support of husband a priority? 82-93
         b) Discussion of First Lady Betty Ford & putting making breast cancer a public conversation 93-100
            (1) Comments on how she handled the challenge.
      2. Author highlighted only two first ladies to discuss as courageous.
         a) Reason you think she picked these two?
         b) Are there others who would fit this topic as well?
   B. Chapter 4: Motherhood
      1. Discuss some of the issues raising children in W.H.
      2. What are some comments about ways first ladies handled motherhood in W.H.
      3. Discuss presidential children who gave support during challenging times.
      4. What are some interesting anecdotes about children in the White House?
   C. Chapter 5 & 7: Part 1 Supporting Actors/The Good Wife: Begin October 19  continue October 24
      1. A Discussion of each first lady’s
         a) Political support of President’s agenda.
         b) Emotional support especially during times of tragedy.
         c) Creating her own projects & legacy

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III. (Session 3) Tuesday, October 24, 2017; 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM
A. Chapters 5 & 7 Part 2: Supporting Actors & the Good Wife continued: October 19 & October 24
1. First Ladies & dates in White House
   a) Jacqueline Kennedy 1960-1963
   b) Lady Bird Johnson 1963-1968
   c) Pat Nixon 1968-1974
   d) Betty Ford 1976-1980
   e) Rosalynn Carter 1976-1980
   g) Barbara Bush 1988-1992
   h) Hillary Clinton 1992-2000
   i) Laura Bush 2001-2008
   j) Michelle Obama 2009-2017
   k) Melania Trump 2016-

B. Chapter 6: East Wing vs West Wing.
1. There is an ongoing East Wing versus West Wing battle of the sexes in every modern White House. Note: P 24-27. more on this east west topic
2. Expand on each of the included first ladies in this chapter: Michelle, Pat, Betty & Hillary about her relationship with the West Wing.

C. Chapter 8: Bad Blood
1. What do you think of the content & name of this chapter?
   a) Discuss first ladies your author states were not ‘friendly’.
      (1) Included in chapter:

IV. (Session 4) Thursday October 26, 2017; 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM.
A. Chapter 9: Keep Calm & Carry On.
1. Discuss challenges for first ladies included in chapter: Lady Bird Pat Betty Nancy & Rosalynn

B. Epilogue: Ladies First
1. Discussion first ladies difficulties, causes, gatherings, legacies, etc. after White House.
2. Which first ladies have impacted history most? Reason? The least? Reason?

C. Thoughts on book, author & discussion.
1. Was book easy to follow?
   a) Well organized? Topic selection? Nonpartisan? Author’s writing style?
2. Selection of first ladies for book. Who else would you want included?
3. Have our discussions and or research significantly changed your opinion of any president or first lady? What would have improved the book for you?
4. Ideas for future discussion topics at OLLI UNT? 2

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Some optional exercises as time allows
Create job description for our modern first ladies.
What are the characteristics of a “good” mother?
Final thoughts: Favorite first lady exercise. Which first lady do you admire most? What may have been different without her presence?

First ladies in the media: lots of articles online especially about ....

Former first lady Hillary Clinton is in the news with her new book—reviews & articles online.
Former first lady Michelle Obama is still in the news as well.