

**Political Studies Program, 2013
AMERICA: FAREWELL TO GREATNESS?
Instructor: William Kristol
Washington, D.C.**

The Founders expected America to become a great nation. Perhaps America has in fact been a great nation. Is it still? Can it be in the future?

These questions will be considered by looking at some of the broad challenges to American greatness, today and in the future.

Monday, July 22, 2013, 9:00 am to Noon

The Hope and the Fear

Reading:

1. *Federalist*, Nos. 1, 2
2. *Democracy in America*, Vol. 2, Part 4, Chs. 6–8

Discussion Questions:

1. The Founders and Tocqueville thought American democracy could degenerate, and that it could fail. How? Why?

Challenge 1: Solvency

Reading:

- Nicholas Eberstadt, *A Nation of Takers*, Parts I–II, Epilogue

Discussion Questions:

1. Will the entitlement state destroy—or at least enfeeble—America? Has it already?

Tuesday, July 23, 2013, 9:00 am to Noon

Challenge 2: Family and Society

Reading:

- Charles Murray, *Coming Apart*, Part 1, Preface (pp. 16–22); Part 2, Preface (pp. 128–130), Chs. 6, 8; Part 3, Chs. 15, 17

Discussion Questions:

1. Are trends affecting family and society destroying—or at least enfeebling—America? Could they be reversed?

Wednesday, July 24, 2013, 9:00 am to Noon

Challenge 3: Demography

Reading:

- Jonathan V. Last, *What To Expect When No One's Expecting*, Introduction, Chs. 1, 2, 5, 9

Discussion Questions:

1. Are demographic trends destroying—or at least enfeebling—America? Could they be reversed?

Thursday, July 25, 2013, 9:00 am to Noon

Challenge 4: Foreign Policy

Reading:

- Robert Kagan, *The World America Made*

Discussion Questions:

1. Can American continue to “make” the world order? Should it?
2. Why does such an effort matter to American well-being, or American greatness?

Friday, July 26, 2013, 9:00 am to Noon

Challenge and Response?

Reading:

- Irving Kristol, *The Neoconservative Persuasion*, pp. 64–80, 89–98, 180–194, 33–46

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a path forward?