

LEADERSHIP FOR AMERICA SEMINAR 2017

MONDAY, JUNE 19 TO SATURDAY, JUNE 24
Trumbull Manor – Novato, California

On Human Dignity and Identity

Scientists, philosophers, and theologians have tackled the mystery of human behavior by attempting to answer the question of “nature vs. nurture”. Are our ways of thinking, feeling, and acting inherently fixed characteristics, or can and should they be modified by family, culture, and politics? This year’s Leadership for America Seminar will consider whether each person can create himself as he sees fit, or if each person has an unchangeable human nature that has to be respected.

Early modernists such as Hobbes and Rousseau argued for the changeableness of human nature; Marx and Nietzsche took this to the extremes. However, others have recognized common moral elements in persons across all cultures and religions. Are there any clear answers?

Reason says “yes”:

1. All human beings share a common nature, which is the basis of universal human rights and a common moral code.
2. Every human being has inherent dignity, and an identity that includes aspects independent of his or her choice: family lineage, sex, ethnic heritage, etc.
3. At the same time, human beings are free to mold themselves and their lives as they see fit within the bounds of the laws of human nature.
4. Human law protects the rights and dignity of each person. However, in order for human law to protect people, lawgivers must have a correct understanding of the human person.

Can these answers be convincing to people even without religion? You will be surprised to find out, and you will have a better understanding of current moral issues such as:

- Physician assisted suicide and abortion
- Homosexual Boy Scout troop leaders
- Transgender bathrooms and designer babies
- What politicians can and cannot legislate

Eligibility: Motivated and academically successful high school boys entering their sophomore, junior or senior year as well as those who are entering their freshman year of college.

Cost: \$425 PAYABLE TO TILDEN STUDY CENTER - Pay only when accepted.

Priority application DEADLINE is May 23. Earlier applicants will be given priority in admissions.

Admissions Procedure: Fill out the attached application form and mail it to the Tilden Study Center in Los Angeles. An interview may be required at the closest sponsoring center.

Faculty:

Matthew J. Peterson
Professor of Media Politics and Culture
John Paul the Great Catholic University

Dr. Peterson's research interests include the common good, rhetoric, corruption and civic renewal, and the reciprocal relationships between our understanding of nature, human beings, and media and technology.

He is currently the Executive Director of City Media, a fledgling think- and do- tank dedicated to the notion that both civic engagement and good public policy require a knowledge of reality on the ground.

After receiving his PhD in Political Philosophy and American government from Claremont Graduate University, he taught at Claremont McKenna College, Loyola Marymount University, and the School of Public Policy at Pepperdine University. Dr. Peterson received his BA from Thomas Aquinas College and has written for publications such as Acculturated, The Federalist, and the Claremont Review of Books.

Kevin Walker
Assistant Professor of History & Political Science
Vanguard University

Dr. Walker has written on the Supreme Court in the Progressive Era, which examined the early days of "substantive due process," its conflict with various regulatory laws in the states, and the evolution of American constitutionalism. Professor Walker has continued to research and write as well on the history of law, religion and politics, education policy, American political culture, and political philosophy. He has published in a variety of academic and popular journals, including the Review of Politics and the Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, and he received research awards from the National Institute for the Humanities and Claremont McKenna College's Rose Institute. B.A., Azusa Pacific University M.A., Claremont Graduate University, Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University.

Leadership for America Seminar – 2017 Application

Name _____ Home phone _____

Address _____

Email (parents) _____

Email (student) _____

Entering Year in School _____ GPA last semester _____ PSAT / SAT scores if known _____

Mail or email application to Tilden Study Center (info@tildensc.org). Priority application deadline is **May 23**:

Leadership for America
Tilden Study Center
655 Levering Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 208-0941

The fee is \$425 (PAY ONLY AFTER BEING ACCEPTED). Payments can be made all at once or in installments, by check to Tilden Study Center or by credit card using this link:

<http://installmentpaymentplan.tildenstudycenter.us>

Medical Authorization

My son, _____
is participating in the *Leadership for America* Seminar in Novato, California. I authorize the directing staff to arrange for emergency medical treatment should that become necessary. I also authorize Tilden to use any photographs or videos taken for future promotion of the seminar.

My son is covered by medical insurance as described below:

Please indicate any allergies or other health factors, which should be known:

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____

Please print name _____

Emergency Phone _____