



College of Engineering  
Department of  
Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

## The Sidney E. Fuchs Seminar Series

3:30-4:30pm, Friday, April 19, 2013

Frank Walk Room



Engineers of the U.S. Constitution

## Madison & Jefferson

Partners in a Partisan Age

by **Andrew Burstein & Nancy G. Isenberg\***

Charles P. Manship Professor

Professor

LSU Department of History

Most Americans get their history from flawed sources, substituting patriotic celebration of the “founding moment” for honest accounts of the partisanship of the Revolutionary Age. The federal Constitution was not simply the “Grand Compromise” that textbooks have long claimed. American history is more complicated (and more interesting) than that. Our book *Madison and Jefferson* details the real conduct of politics surrounding the early years of the American republic. Presidents Madison and Jefferson had the most important political friendship in U.S. history, and they had to learn to compete in an ill-mannered political world. In most histories, the elder figure, Jefferson, looms larger. Yet Madison is privileged in our title because he was the senior partner at key moments in the formation of the two-party system, and instrumental in initiating the presidency of George Washington. The story behind Madison and Jefferson gives us clues to why we are such a politically divided nation today.



Professor Burstein holds a PhD in American History from the Univ. of Virginia (1994), a MA from the Univ. of Michigan in Chinese Studies and a BA from Columbia Univ. in Oriental Studies. He has been the Mary Frances Bernard Professor of 19th Century History at the Univ. of Tulsa. He is the

author of several books, including a monograph, book chapters and edited works many of which revolve around Thomas Jefferson.

Professor Isenberg holds a MA and a PhD in American History from the Univ. of Wisconsin Madison (1990), and a BA from Rutgers. She has been the Bingham Professor of Humanities at the Univ. of Louisville, and holder of the Mary Frances Bernard Chair of 19th Century History at the Univ. of Tulsa. She is the author of several books, articles and essays many of which are on topics related to American History.

