

OLLI Class on Political Biographies

Winter 2024

Week 1- Introduction: Is There a Profession of Politics?

Reading: Caro- *Working* "Turn Every Page," pp .3-18.

Week 2- Social Scientists' Efforts to Understand Professional Politicians Systematically

Reading: Caro- *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Path to Power*
Chap.18- Rayburn, pp. 306-340.

Week 3- Context-Professional Ceilings

Reading: Caro- *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: Master of the Senate*
Chap.7- A Russell of the Russells of Georgia
Chap. 8- We of the South pp. 164-222

Week 4- Skills, Repertoires, Success and Failure

Reading- Maraniss- *First in His Class*, Chap. 17-19 (Chap. 18 is optional)

Reading- Farrell- *Nixon*, Chap. 1 and 2.

Week 5- Women Politicians

Reading- Biskupic- *Sandra Day O'Connor: How the First Woman on the Supreme Court Became Its Most Influential Justice*, Chap.1-2.

Moore- *Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography*, Chap 1-2.

Week 6- How Do Democratic and Authoritarian Politicians Differ

Reading: Cohen and Taylor- *American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley*, Chap 2.