

John Dean Lecture Topics

“A Conversation with John Dean”

As a regular columnist and frequent political commentator on MSNBC’s “Countdown” Dean is constantly delving into the political story of the day. Given his insider knowledge of the way government works and his extensive contacts with government officials of all political persuasions, he gives audiences insights into the news of the day, and the events that will be making news tomorrow. These “conversations” are as current as today’s headlines, and after a brief talk to provide insights, these sessions emphasize questions from the audience.

“How It Really Works Inside the White House and it’s Environs”

What happens when there is a crisis at 3 a.m.? How are disputes between the Secretaries of Defense and State resolved? Does the president get all the information necessary to make a decision? Is there a difference between the way Republican and Democratic presidents seek to lead the nation? What are the greatest challenges a president faces? How safe is a president from potential assassins? These are but a few of the questions addressed when Dean, drawing on personal experience and years of study, takes his audience inside the modern American presidency to explain how it really works. Relying on examples from the Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, Clinton and Bush II presidencies this is a non-partisan analysis of the most powerful office – and difficult job – in the world. [Note: this is a proprietary and off-the-record discussion that cannot be recorded, reported or reproduced without written permission, which will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances. The reason for the restrictions is that Dean has developed this material for later use in a book, and he does not want to scoop himself, so to speak.]

“What We Did and Did Not Learn From Watergate”

With brutal candor Dean explains what happened in the Nixon White House that produced the so-called Watergate scandal, its diminishing impact on all presidents since Nixon, and the effort of Nixon apologists and imperial presidency enthusiasts to rewrite history with outrageous revisionism – that is working. [Note: this too is a proprietary and off-the-record discussion that cannot be recorded, reported or reproduced without consent.]

“Special Lectures” [On Select Topics]

With sufficient notice, Dean has agreed in the past to prepare special talks for audiences with unique interests (e.g. legal oriented groups from students to practitioners, archivists, booksellers, and special interest groups) – and these talks draw on his background and experience, and subjects about which he is particularly interested.