

America's First Ladies

Their ever-changing role, from Martha Washington to Melania Trump

Course #	21SAF
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Linda Honan
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 AM 10 weeks, starting February 23
Location:	ONLINE, via Zoom
Maximum number of participants:	14
Auditors accepted:	Yes, 1

Purpose: After reading an overview of the lives of all First Ladies, this seminar will study individual First Ladies, noting their education, interests, their work both inside and outside the home, their societal views and contributions to their times

Description: Participants will choose a First Lady to study in depth, noting how her background and family shaped her as an individual. They will study her education, work, attitudes to society and politics, and how she interacted with her husband's work and the changing society around her. Some First Ladies were not the president's wife: other women, including the president's daughters, daughters-in-law and sisters have served as the president's hostess and the nation's lady in chief, and may be studied in that role.

Role of participants: Each participant will give a 20- to 30- minute in-depth presentation on her/his chosen First Lady, allowing time for discussion.

Resources: In order to obtain a general overview of the changing role of American First Ladies throughout history, all participants will read *DK Eyewitness Books: First Ladies: Discover the Fascinating Spouses of the Nation's Presidents from Early Patriots* by DK and the Smithsonian Institution

About the Moderator: Linda Honan is a happy Pioneer Valley retiree who has moderated several Five College Learning in Retirement seminars.