



St. Mary's College of Maryland
at Historic St. Mary's City

Princeton Professor of Classics Finds Answers to Today's Questions About War In Ancient Greece

Photos available via e-mail

(St. Mary's City, MD) March 4, 2003- As America confronts the question of whether to fight a war in a distant land, questions about free speech arise. Should leaders make security decisions without the democratic process of debate and deliberation? How much secrecy should a democratic society tolerate? How much openness and free speech can it afford in a time of war?

Josiah Ober, professor of classics at Princeton university, will present his answers to these questions in his lecture, "*Ancient Athenian Democracy and Democracy Today: Culture, Knowledge, Power,*" at St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) on Thursday, March 6th. The lecture will take place in Daugherty-Palmer Commons at 8 P.M. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow. For more information contact Linda Hall at (240) 895-4434.

Ober's lecture will demonstrate the surprising relevance of the ancient past to some of today's most troubling issues. He states that by looking at the history of ancient Greece, where the idea and the practice of democracy were first invented, one can answer questions about free speech versus state security. Ober argues that the ancient Greeks have much to teach us about the potential for building effective democratic and people-centered organizations.

In his research, Ober focuses on Greek and Roman history, the topography of Greece, historiography, and ancient political thought. He has published numerous books and articles on these subjects including *Political Dissent in Democratic Athens: Intellectual Critics of Popular Rule* and *A Company of Citizens: What the World's First Democracy Teaches Leaders about Creating Great Organizations*.

This lecture is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Democracy and the SMCM Department of History.

SMCM is consistently ranked one of the best public liberal arts colleges in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. The Washington Post called St. Mary's College of Maryland "a place to get an Ivy League education at a public school price."

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Founded in 1840 as Maryland's "monument school" commemorating the state's first capital, St. Mary's College of Maryland provides a high-caliber liberal arts education typically associated with prestigious private colleges while maintaining the affordability and accessibility of a public college.

- 1823 men and women
- Designated the Maryland state honors college in 1992.
- Consistently ranked among the top public liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Princeton Review*, and the *Fiske Guide*.
- Selective admissions – SAT average of 1235
- Highly qualified regular, full-time faculty -- more than 94% with Ph.D.
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