

The UDel/OLLI class *Sage or Infidel: Thomas Jefferson's Life and Legacy* will review the life and decision making methods/style of Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1826), who gained enduring fame as a champion of freedom, largely for his philosophical writings. Thomas Jefferson was notably the first American Secretary of State, its second Vice President and third President. Recent research on issues inadequately addressed in previous biographies will include matters of slavery, Native Americans, pirates, suffrage and gender, world affairs, the industrial revolution, economics, etc. Understanding the details of Jefferson’s life is important, but details are like a dictionary compared to a novel. We will strive to understand the context of his life, the social and cultural environment in which Jefferson lived, grew, survived and thrived.

Suggested pre-course reading should include Wikipedia or Britannica pages on Jefferson or *American Sphinx* (Ellis) or *Thomas Jefferson* (Meacham) or equivalent contemporary background material.

In addition to the course lectures outlined below there will be an introductory class session: controversies, books, movies, podcasts, internet material related to Jefferson, Monticello, and TJ’s travels will be discussed. Also, the structure/rules of the class and lecture format will be covered.

Meeting	Period	Focus & Stories	Four Interactive Factors			
1	April 13, 1743 - March 25, 1760	From Birth to College	Frontier	Family	Education	Plantation
2	1760 - August, 1774	College to end of Legal Practice	Wars	Enlightenment	Slavery	Intrusion
3	Late 1774 – September 26, 1776	From Delegate to Author	Men	Reason	Power	Servants
4	1776 – December 22, 1783	From House of Delegates to Governor of VA	Religion	Laws	Honor	Wife
5	1784 – October 12, 1786	From Delegate to "Diplomatic Affairs"	Finance	Pirates	Women	Slaves
6	Late 1786 - 1789	Minister to France	Constitution	Indignation	Debt	usufruct
7	1790 - 1799	From Secretary of State to Vice President	Revolt	Procedure	Monarchy	Nullify
8	1800 – April 17, 1804	First Presidential Term & Aaron Burr	Republican	Judiciary	Territory	Pirates
9	1804 – March 4, 1809	Second Presidential Term & Embargo	Turbulence	Indians	Insurrection	Embargo
10	1810 - 1827	Retirement & Founding UVA	Slavery	Reputation	University	Bankruptcy
11	Overview / Evaluation	Author, legislator, founder, slave master	Author	Legislator	Founder	Slave Master