

**Topic suggestions for the Fall 2020 seminar, *Author in Chief*:
Books US presidents have written about their time in office.**

“Decision Points” by George W. Bush (2010). George W. Bush served as president of the United States during eight of the most consequential years in history.

“My Life” by Bill Clinton (2004) President Bill Clinton's "My Life" is the strikingly candid portrait of a global leader who decided early in life to devote his intellectual and political gifts, and his extraordinary capacity for hard work, to serving the public.

“A World Transformed” by George H. W. Bush (1998) and Brent Scowcroft In "A World Transformed," Mr. Bush and his national security advisor, Brent Scowcroft, provide a fascinating account of a president and an administration faced with unprecedented obstacles and unrivaled opportunities as they forged a foreign policy at the end of the Cold War.

“An American Life” by Ronald Reagan (1990) President Reagan gives us the details of the great themes and dramatic crises of his eight years in office, from Lebanon to Grenada, from the struggle to achieve arms control to tax reform, from Iran-Contra to the visits abroad that did so much to reestablish the United States in the eyes of the world as a friendly and peaceful power.

“Keeping Faith: Memoirs of a President” by Jimmy Carter (1982) “The President who cared” details his anguish over the hostage crisis in Iran, his triumph against all odds at Camp David, his secret communications with China’s Deng Xiaoping, and his dramatic and revealing encounters with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, and other world leaders.

“A Time to Heal” by Gerald Ford (1979) In this intimate self-portrait, Ford speaks candidly about his private life, political battles in Congress, experiences as a Warren Commission member and as House Minority Leader, and attempts to reunite a nation fragmented by Watergate

“RN - The Memoirs of Richard Nixon” by Richard Nixon (1978) Former President Richard Nixon’s bestselling autobiography is an intensely personal examination of his life, public career, and White House years. With startling candor, Nixon reveals his beliefs, doubts, and behind-the-scenes decisions.

“The Autobiography of Harry S. Truman” by Harry S. Truman (1980) *Compiled and edited from Robert Ferrell.* "The Autobiography of Harry S. Truman" is a compilation of autobiographical writings composed by Truman between 1934 and 1972. Taken directly from his own manuscript material, the volume presents the thoughts and feelings of the man himself. The book touches on details in Truman’s life from his days as a boy until graduation from Independence High School in 1901 to the vice presidency of the United States and beyond.

“The Vantage Point: Perspectives of the Presidency 1963-1969” (1971) by Lyndon B. Johnson Lyndon Johnson was the fourth man to assume the office after the assassination of the president, joining a company with those following the assassination of Lincoln, Garfield, and

McKinley. In "The Vantage Point" Johnson memorably recalls those terrible minutes in the Dallas motorcade, as well as the presidency in total from his perspective.

“At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends” by Dwight D. Eisenhower (1969) In warm and personal terms, [President Eisenhower] writes about his life, his acquaintances both celebrated and little-known, and the history that unfolded before his eyes. In anecdote after anecdote, we learn about life at West Point, turn-of-the-century Kansas, and an "ordinary" but remarkable family.

“Memoirs: Year of Decisions” (1955) and “Memoirs: Years of Trial and Hope” (1956) by Harry S. Truman. In this invaluable account, President Truman provides extraordinary insight into events and decisions that have shaped the world we live in. The momentous year, 1945, witnessed the accession of a new president in wartime, the first use of atomic weaponry, and the end of the war with Japan.

“The Memoirs of Herbert Hoover, Volume 3: The Great Depression 1929-1941” by Herbert Hoover (1951). This third volume in the series, forthright and devastatingly critical of the New Deal, is the culmination of that statement. Its analysis of the Great Depression — the beginnings during the Hoover Administration and the eight frantic years of the New Deal power from 1932-1940 — provides enlightening perspectives for the national problems that followed and persist up to today. *Volume 1: Years of Adventure 1874-1920; Volume 2: The Cabinet and the Presidency 1920-1933*

“The Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge” by Calvin Coolidge (1929). This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it.

“The Autobiography of Martin Van Buren” by Martin Van Buren (1920) *Posthumously compiled and edited from Van Buren's manuscript materials by John C. Fitzpatrick.* Martin Van Buren, the eighth President of the United States, wrote this autobiography years after his time in American politics had come to an end. He was living in Europe and decided that it was time to defend his record

“Theodore Roosevelt: An Autobiography” by Theodore Roosevelt (1913) In his vital, illustrative and dynamic autobiography, Theodore Roosevelt let us into the life that formed one of the greatest and most outspoken presidents in American history. Not only are we privy to the formation of his political ideals, but also to his love of the frontier and the great outdoors.