Brett Gadsden  
HISTORY 102-0-21  
FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR—RACE AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY  
Day/Time: TTH 2:00-3:20  
Maximum Enrollment: 15  

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** How did Lyndon B. Johnson, a son of the Texas Hill Country and a product of the Jim Crow South, become the standard bearer of presidential liberalism? Faced with an intransigent Congress, how did he win groundbreaking civil rights legislation and a great expansion of the American welfare state? This course is designed to answer these questions and explore what lessons can we apply from Johnson’s political career to the current political climate? This course will pay particular attention to the evolving relationship between Johnson and the rising tide of black freedom struggles in the post-World War II. It will focus particular attention to the ways in which grassroots demands for political and economic rights were translated into public policy against the backdrop of a political structure marked up separation of powers, federalism, and entrenched white supremacy. In the final weeks of the semester, students will consider Johnson’s political legacy in subsequent presidential administrations and the contested memories surrounding his presidency.  

**AREA OF CONCENTRATION:** Americas  

**TEACHING METHOD:** Seminar  

**EVALUATION METHOD:** Response-type papers based on course content  

**GRADING BASIS:** ANC, no P/N allowed  

**TENTATIVE READING LIST:**  

**INSTRUCTOR PROFILE:** Brett Gadsden is Associate Professor of History and a historian of twentieth century United States and African American history. His first book, *Between North and South: Delaware, Desegregation, and the Myth of American Sectionalism,* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012) chronicles the three-decades-long struggle over segregated schooling in Delaware. His manuscript-in-progress, titled “From Protest to Politics: The Making of a ‘Second Black Cabinet,’” explores the set of historical circumstances that brought African Americans into consultative relationships with presidential candidates and later into key cabinet, sub-cabinet, and other important positions in the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations and opened to them unprecedented access to centers of power in the federal government.