

Peter Kastor studies the intersection of politics, policymaking, and culture during the half-century following American independence. He has taught numerous courses on the presidency, ranging from first-year programs to senior seminars.

He is particularly interested in the ways that the diverse peoples of North America--governing officials of the United States and European empires, Euro-American settlers, Indians, slaves, free people of color, and people of mixed-race ancestry--imagined what the United States should be and how best to construct public life within that polity. He teaches undergraduate classes in both History and in the American Culture Studies Program. He also trains graduate students in American history.

Professor Kastor is particularly interested in the functional realities of governance. Most of Kastor's research so far has sought to explore these issues within the specific geography of western borderlands. His current book project, tentatively entitled *Creating a Federal Government*, will extend beyond the geographic focus of the West to take a national perspective on policymaking. This study will offer a comprehensive analysis of how the federal government operated in its first decades of existence. In the process of writing *Creating a Federal Government*, Kastor is also creating a major digital archive that will reconstruct the scope and scale of the early federal government. It will contain a full listing of federal officials, both civil and military, and will enable users to analyze the careers of these officials at both the individual and aggregate levels. *Creating a Federal Government* continues Kastor's commitment to interdisciplinary inquiry by bridging the gap between history and political science, engaging questions in American political development, presidential history, and institutional behavior.

In addition to his scholarly work, Professor Kastor writes and talks regularly to public audiences about diverse issues in American history. A regular guest on St. Louis Public Radio, he has spoken with numerous media organizations about the history of American politics and has written for outlets including *The Washington Post*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Conversation*, and *Fortune*.

Professor Kastor's teaching includes a variety of professional development programs for federal, state, and local agencies. He teaches in Washington University's Brookings Executive Education program, a partnership with the Brookings Institution, which provides ongoing career development for emerging leaders in the federal government. He has also conducted educational programming for the St. Louis Public Schools, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, and the Air War College.