



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Dworkin to speak Oct. 28 on “Democracy and Religion”

Professor of philosophy and law Ronald Dworkin will speak Oct. 28 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, as part of the 2008-09 E.N. Thompson Lectures on World Issues.

The lecture will be simulcast from remote sites in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Kearney, Columbus, Wayne and Omaha, with financial support from the Cooper Foundation.

Dworkin’s lecture is entitled “Democracy and Religion: America and Israel.” Dubbed “Mr. Justice” by the Times of London, Dworkin is a professor of philosophy and law at New York University and a professor of law at University College London. In 2007, he was awarded the prestigious Holberg International Memorial Prize by the University of Bergen, Norway, for outstanding scholarly work in the humanities. He has written influential articles on matters of public and political controversy for many years. Among his many acclaimed books are “Taking Rights Seriously,” “Justice in Robes” and “Is Democracy Possible Here? Principles for New Political Debate.”

The theme of this year’s Thompson lecture series is “Democracy’s Future,” with speakers exploring diverse facets of a complex question by looking through the lenses of history, philosophy, religion, globalization, conflict, economics and citizenship to provide insights into the ideal and the reality, the promise and the challenge of democracy in the 21st century.

Upcoming lecturers in the series are Theodore C. “Ted” Sorensen on “America and the World, 1962 to 2008: Contrasts and Contradictions,” Nov. 18; F.W. de Klerk on “Bridging the Gap: Globalization without Isolation,” Feb. 10; Sarah Chayes on “Notes from Afghanistan,” March 4; Michael Olivas and Vernon Briggs on “Illegal Immigrants: Path to Citizenship?” March 25; and Colin G. Campbell on “Citizenship in a Global Age,” April 14.

All lectures are free and open to the public.

For 20 years, the Thompson Forum has brought a diversity of viewpoints on international and public policy issues to the citizens of Nebraska at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The series was named in honor of E.N. “Jack” Thompson, who was president of the Cooper Foundation from 1964 to 1990 and its chairman from 1990 until his death in 2002. He established the series to promote better understanding of world events and issues for all Nebraskans.

Remote sites for the Dworkin lecture include the Main Building Room C-1 at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, the South Campus of Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, the Communications Building at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, West Education Center, Room 205, at Central Community College in Columbus, Connell Hall Auditorium at Wayne State College, and Milo Bail Student Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. All lectures begin at 7 p.m. (CST); in Scottsbluff, lectures air at 6 p.m. (MST).

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