Between 1865 and 1870 three important amendments were added to the United State Constitution. Collectively known as the "Reconstruction amendments," they were designed to secure the emancipation of four million southern slaves and protect their civil and political rights. In so doing the amendments dramatically altered the relationship between the federal government and the states. What prompted their adoption, how much did they actually alter, and what is their significance today? These are questions that historians and constitutional scholars continue to debate. This seminar will introduce participants to these issues by tracing the origins and significance of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments.

Background Reading (before the seminar begins):

Melvin Urofsky & Paul Finkelman, A March of Liberty: A Constitutional History of the United States, 3rd ed. (2011), 377-568

Monday (morning): Overviews

Michael Grossberg and Christopher Tomlins, Cambridge History of Law in America (2008), v. II, 313-344 (Edwards), 345-386 (Welke),

Monday (afternoon): The Origins of the Thirteenth Amendment

Christian Samito, Lincoln and the Thirteenth Amendment (2015), 27-133

Tuesday: Origins of the Fourteenth Amendment

Randy Barnett, "Whence Comes Section One? The Abolitionist Origins of the Fourteenth Amendment," (2011), 165-176, 198-217, 221-231, 246-257.

Edward Keynes, Liberty, Property, and Privacy (1996), 1-96

Wednesday: The Impact of the Fourteenth Amendment

G. Edward White, Law in American History (2016), v. II, 6-49, 424-494

William M. Wiecek, [outline]

Thursday: The Impact of the Fourteenth Amendment

Pamela Brandwein, <u>Rethinking the Judicial Settlement of Reconstruction</u> (2011), 1-27, 161-205

Michael Grossberg and Christopher Tomlins, <u>Cambridge History of Law in America</u> (2008), v. II, 643-696 (Forbath)

Friday: The Fifteenth Amendment

Alexander Keyssar, <u>The Right to Vote</u> (2009), 64-93, 195-257

George Rutherglen, <u>Civil Rights in the Shadow of Slavery</u> (2013), 3-110