

History Access Reading Group

Meet with Professor RICHARD KIRKENDALL
to discuss his book

*Harry's Farewell: Interpreting and Teaching the
Truman Presidency*
(University of Missouri Press, 2004)

*Monday, February 28
1:30 to 3:30 in Smith 306*

This book may be purchased from the University Bookstore, Elliott Bay Books, Amazon, or directly from the University of Missouri Press (800-828-1894). Please allow a couple of weeks for delivery from the press.

Please note that royalties from the sale of this book go to the Truman Library Institute for support of its research and education programs.

Please read the preface, the opening chapter, and the essay by Jeff Gall to see what the authors were about when they developed the book and read as many of the other essays as possible. Photocopies of the preface and the opening chapter are available from the History Undergraduate Advising Office.

Please sign up for this group by visiting our website and clicking on the RSVP button or contacting History Undergraduate Advising (543-5691, histadv@u.washington.edu):

<http://depts.washington.edu/history/studying/access/reading.html>

Harry's Farewell confronts the biggest issue of Truman historiography: the historical significance of Harry S. Truman's presidency. Exploring the subject from the point of view of Truman's Farewell Address of January 15, 1953, the book begins by describing the preparation of the address itself by the president and his closest advisers. In it, they challenged the negative view of his presidency that prevailed as he prepared to leave the White House. In addition to interpreting the Truman presidency, the book also deals with the needs of teachers who must bring this subject into their classrooms. It offers documents that teachers can use in their classes and includes an essay, based on the conversations, on ways of teaching the Truman presidency. In addition to being of great value to researchers and teachers, this book provides the general reader with a clearly focused collection of informative and provocative essays on Harry Truman, a man now widely regarded as a great American president.

Questions to consider while you read the book:

- What was your opinion of Truman while he was president?
- Did your opinion change after he left office? If so, when? Why?
- Did your reading of the book influence your view of him? If so, how?
- Do you find in the book different conceptions as to how historians should view the past? If so, what are those differences? How do you appraise them?
- Do you believe the book could help high-school history teachers?