Michael Eric Dyson to Present Lecture on "The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America"

Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America

By: Emily Esten
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Michael Eric Dyson, professor of sociology at Georgetown University, will present on his new book The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and The Politics of Race in America on Wednesday, April 13, at 4:30 p.m. in Bowker Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public.
Criticized in the past for being an Obama cheerleader, Dyson’s most recent work examines how race has shaped the Obama presidency and probes the uses of race by both Obama’s opponents, and the president himself, in performing his presidential duties. Dyson draws on Obama’s speeches and statements on race, from his first presidential campaign through the events of Charleston, to note how the president’s language seeks to “keep racial peace, often at the expense of black interests.” In analyzing key issues and controversies of the Obama presidency, Dyson illuminates the challenges facing a black man elected to govern a society that is far from post-racial.

An American Book Award winner, two-time NAACP Image Award winner, New York Times opinion contributing writer, and a contributing editor for The New Republic, Dyson is the author of 18 books, many of them bestsellers. Before teaching at Georgetown, Dyson taught at schools like the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, Brown, the University of North Carolina, and DePaul University. His rise from humble roots in Detroit to his present perch as a world class intellectual, prominent leader, and national media fixture testify to his extraordinary talent.

This lecture is sponsored by Commonwealth Honors College, the Office of the Chancellor, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, W.E.B. DuBois Library, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Kathryn and Paul Williamson Lecture Fund.

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