

P C21
TR 11:00 -12:20 Morey 2 Spring 201
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American Election

We will study American elections: presidential, congressional and state primary and general elections. In particular, we will look at how the constitution and rules that structure the process shape the decisions of candidates, voters and activists. Finally, we will look at the policy representations that emerge from the electoral process.

There will be a midterm and a final. Class attendance is expected and class participation will affect close calls on the final grade. Be sure to complete the assigned reading by the first date listed for each on the syllabus—the lecturer will assume you have done the reading.

Office Hours T-Th 1:10 -2:10, other times available by email request

Text

DeWitt, Howard, Grozman and Lutz *Campaign and Election* 2nd Ed
Other readings will be available on Blackboard or by email. The text will provide much of the basic material for the course. It will be supplemented by additional political science readings. And there will also be current material, often from online sources about the electoral process.

NOTE: As I add new/replace material on the syllabus, I will update the readings on Blackboard or send you a link by email.

Grading

Midterm Exam, March 14 40
Final Thursday May 10th, 10AM (1 hr) 60

Writing Requirement Paper 1

There will be a separate email sent to Writing students about the paper requirement.

You are encouraged to discuss course readings with your classmates, and to discuss prior years with your fellow students. However, the work has to be your own. Do not depend on others for help.

Introduction January 1 (Th)

Partisan Hip—Vote and Election Jan 23 (T) and Jan 24 (Th)

[1] *Campaign & Election*, Ch 2, 12 & 13

[2] [DeWitt, Tejer and Avreck](#) *Electoral Crises*, The Electoral Landscape of 2016. On Blackboard.

Find information about it, think about it and be prepared to discuss the following:
What is redistricting and why should we care about it?
Who does redistricting? Why does it matter?

What factors do potential presidential candidates think about when deciding whether or not to run? Think about the ones that are personal to them, as well as the features of the electoral landscape that will shape the decision of any potential candidate.

What are "core supporters" and why are they important?

How do candidates work?

What are the pros and cons of candidate versus primary?

What is frontloading and what are its pros and cons?

In the period before the actual presidential primary and caucus were held, "the invisible primary," which candidate held the polling lead, raised the most money and/or had the most endorsement?

Describe the argument for and against a few small states, such as Iowa and New Hampshire, allowed to hold the nominating contest before the rest of the states have the election. Did the state contribute to or detract from a Democratic presidential nomination process?

In what way does the sequence of primaries matter?

What happened in the 2016 Republican and Democratic

[4] [de , Te ler and avreck](#) “The 2016 U S Elect on: ow Tr mp Lo t and Won”
Journal of Democrac 2017

[] [chaffner, MacW ll am and Nteta](#), “Expla n ng Wh te Polar zat on n the 2016 ote
for Pre dent: The ober ng Role of Rac m and ex m”

[4] [Gold te n, en, Matthew Dallek and Joel R vl n](#) 2014 “Even the Geek are
Polar zed: The D p te over the 'Real Dr ver' n Amer can Elect on ” [The For m, ol 12
I e 2]

[] [D alvo and toneca h](#), “Pop l m n the 2016 Pre dent al Elect on” The For m,
2016

[6] Nate lver

How should the concept of money and free speech be weighed against the potentially corrupting influence of money? Should it be limited or regulated?
What did the Supreme Court decide in *Citizens United*?
Should contribution to candidates be done publicly?
Who give contribution to candidates? How do they give? Do donors get anything in return?
What arguments do we have for and against contribution given to candidates?
What is the strongest argument? What is the weakest argument?

Media/Internet in Election – March 27 (T)

[1] *Campaign & Election*, Ch

[2] [Farber, Robert, Etlberg, Barbara, Zickerman and Benkler](#), “Partisan Hyp, Propaganda, and Disinformation: Online Media and the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election” 2017

Find information about it, think about it and be prepared to discuss the following:
What role did media play in the 2016 election?
How has technology changed media?
Should we be concerned about the future of the traditional print media?
Do you think the media is biased? How and why?
How can we measure bias?
Do changes in our media lead to polarization?

State and Local Election – March 29 (Th)

Campaign & Election, Ch 11

Initiative, Referenda and Recall April 3 (T)

[Larson](#), *Referendum*, Ch 4

[Bowler and Donovan](#), “Direct Democracy in the United States” in *The Oxford Book of American Electoral Behavior*. Reading will be on Blackboard

Find information about it, think about it and be prepared to discuss the following:
What do the following terms mean: initiative, referendum, recall
Identify an example of one of them in the 2016 election and discuss the result
What are the pros and cons of the electoral mechanism

April 5 Class cancelled

Culture Wars & Ideological Polarization April 10 (T) and April 12 (Th)

[Abramowitz, Alan I, and Michael L. Jamin](#) 2004 “Is Polarization a Myth?” *Journal of Politics* 70: 42-

[Forsman, Morrill P., Samuel A. Abrams, and Jeremy C. Pope](#) 2004 “Polarization in the American Political Marketplace: Conceptualization and Measurement” *Journal of Politics* 70: 56-60

What is Abramowitz's argument?
What is Forsman's counterargument?
Why should we care about polarization between the parties?

Why did polarization happen?
What can we do about it?

presentation April 17 (T)

[Glen, Martin](#) 2012 *fluency* / *fluency* ch 3

Glen, Bartel, Chozman, Roenblum, Yglesias, Schmidt, Ferejohn