





due on February 19 (to be discussed on February 21). Finally, synthesize these summaries so the sources connect on/build on one another. In about 4 pages, explain how your question relates to the literature you review *and* present some expectations/hypotheses. This is due on February 26 (to be discussed on February 28).

- c. Research design. Identify the main dependent and independent variables. Discuss your population, sample, measures, and data collection plan. Describe how you will analyze your data to test your expectations. This is due on March 6 (to be discussed on March 18).
- d. Data collection. Collect your data and organize it for analysis. Report on your experience collecting the data. This is due on March 23 (to be discussed on March 25).
- e. Data analysis and interpretation. Report descriptive statistics about your sample (e.g., percent Democrat, Republican, Independent) and of your variables (e.g., average scores). Engage in analyses relating your dependent and independent variables. (There is no expectation of statistical analyses beyond basic crosstabs and correlations, although those familiar with more advanced statistics are encouraged to use what they know.) Interpret the results, explaining whether they are consistent or contrary to expectations (use graphs/figures). Time in class will be provided to work on this on April 3. This is due on April 13 (to be discussed on April 15).

The final paper should include all of the above, with transitions, as well as a conclusion that

Tables with a summary of due dates appear at the end of the syllabus. There will be several informal assignments, however, that are not listed on the syllabus; these will be discussed in class.

### **Readings**

Each student should regularly read about the 2024 campaign in a major newspaper (e.g., *The New York Times*, *Democrat and Chronicle*). We will discuss campaign events in many classes. All other readings are either provided by links on the syllabus or will be e-mailed by the Professor. Readings could be changed throughout the semester; this will be discussed in class.

*Students are expected to read all of the assigned readings before each class.*

## Course Outline

### January 17 Introduction

### January 22 Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: From Bush v. Gore to the Capitol Insurrection

“[The 2000 Election Never Ended](#),” by Andrew Rice, *New York Magazine*, 2020.

“[9/11 Was a Test. The Books of the Last Two Decades Show How America Failed](#),” by Carols Lozada, *Washington Post*, 2021.

“[Who Authorized America’s Endless Wars?](#),” by Andrea Mazzarino, *The Nation*, 2021.

“[A Short History of the Great Recession](#),” by Wayne Duggan, *Forbes*, 2023.

“[Defiance in the Face of Autocratization. Democracy Report 2023](#),” Varieties of Democracy Institute, 2023, Pages 6-7, 42-43 (Skim other parts).

*Research Topic Proposal Due*

### January 24 Demographic Change in America

“[New Census Projections Show Immigration Is Essential to the Growth and Vitality of a More Diverse U.S. Population](#),” by William H. Frey, *Brookings*, 2023.

“[The Scientific Case That America is Becoming More Prejudiced](#),” by Brian Resnick, *Vox*, 2017.

[Uncivil Disagreement](#), by Lilianna Mason, University Chicago Press, 2018, Chapter 3.

“[A Close-Up Picture of Partisan Segregation, Among 180 Million Voters](#),” by Emily Badger, Kevin Quealy, and Josh Katz, *The New York Times*, 2021.

*Discuss Research Topic Proposals*

### February 5 The Evolution of Media in America

[Media Politics](#), by Shanto Iyengar, 2022, Chapter 5.

“[Why the Past 10 Years of American Life Have Been Uniquely Stupid - The Atlantic](#),” by Jonathan Haidt, *The Atlantic*, April 11, 2022.

“[How Harmful Is Social Media? | The New Yorker](#),” by Gideon Lewis-Kraus, *The New Yorker*, June 3, 2022.

[“Yes, Social Media Really Is Undermining Democracy,”](#) by Jonathan Haidt, *The Atlantic*, July 28, 2022.

*Identification of Sources for Research Paper Due*

## **February 7 Polarization**

[Polarization: What Everyone Needs to Know](#), by Nolan McCarty, Oxford University Press, 2019, Chapter 3.

[“Partisan Antipathy: More Intense, More Personal,”](#) by Pew Research, October 10, 2019.

[“Trump’s Approval Ratings so Far Are Unusually Stable – and Deeply Partisan,”](#)  
by

[“A Deeply Divided Nation,”](#) by Kenneth T. Walsh, *U.S. News and World Report*, 2018.

[“‘The Whole World Is Watching’: The 1968 Democratic Convention, 50 Years Later,”](#) by Maggie Astor, *New York Times*, 2018.

[“The Good Old Days?,”](#) by the Brookings Institute, 2018.

[“Winning the Presidential Nomination is All About Delegates. But How Does the Process Work?,”](#) by PBS News Hour, 2023.

Watch Decades [documentary](#) on 1968 Democratic National Convention

*Discuss Summary of Sources*

## **February 26 Voting Rights**

*The Fight to Vote*, by Michael Waldman, 2016, pages 125-170.

[“The Right Way to Honor John Lewis: Restore and Extend the Voting Rights Act,”](#) by Jeanne Theoharis, *The Intercept* July 20, 2020.

[“Election Administration at State and Local Levels \(ncsl.org\),”](#) by the National Conference of State Legislatures, 2022.

[“Voting Laws Roundup: May 2022 | Brennan Center for Justice,”](#) Brennan Center for Justice, May, 2022.

[“States Pass New Laws to Protect Election Workers Amid Ongoing Threats - CNNPolitics,”](#) by Fredreka Schouten, CNN, September 13, 2022.

*Literature Review Due*

## **February 28 Polling**

, by Michael W. Traugott and Paul J. Lavrakas, Chatham, NJ: Chatham House Publishers, Inc., 2008, pages 1-47, 59-106.

[“American Association for Public Opinion Research Task Force on 2020 Pre-Election Polling, Executive Summary.”](#)

*Discuss Literature Review*

## **March 4 Election Surveys and Experiments**





[“Campaigns Influence Election Outcomes Less Than You Think,”](#) by David W. Nickerson and Todd Rogers, *Science* 369: 1181-1182, 2020.

*Work on Misinformation Interventions*

*Work on Candidate Advertisements*

March 23      *Data Collection Due*

**March 25      Misinformation**

[“The Science of Fake News,”](#) by David M.J. Lazer et al., *Science* 359: 1094-1096, 2018.

[“Science Audiences, Misinformation, and Fake News,”](#) [Dietram A. Scheufele](#) and Nicole M. Krause, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116: 7662-7669, 2019.

[“Misinformation Is Eroding the Public’s Confidence in Democracy,”](#) by Gabriel R. Sanchez and Keesha Middlemass, Brookings Institute, 2022.

*Discuss Data Collection*



See <https://brightlinewatch.org/>.

**April 22**      **Civic Reform Speaker (Jillian Youngblood, Civic Genius)**

See <https://www.ourcivicgenius.org/>

**April 24**      **Informal Research Paper Presentations (<5 minutes each)**

**April 29**      **Informal Research Paper Presentations (<5 minutes each)**

*April 30*      *Final Research Paper Due*

### Research Paper Assignments

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Discussion Date</b>
Topic	January 22	January 24
Identification of sources	February 5	February 7
Summary of sources	February 19	February 21
Literature review	February 26	February 28
Research design	March 6	March 18
Data collection	March 23	March 25
Data analysis in class	April 3	
Data analysis interpretation	April 13	April 15
Informal presentation	April 24 and April 29	
Final Paper	April 30	

### Other Assignments

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Work on In Cass</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
State Voting Laws	February 7, 12	February 14
Misinformation Interventions	March 20	March 25
Candidate Advertisements	March 20	April 1
Campaign Spending	April 3	April 8