

## HISTORY 211

Dickinson College // Fall 2020  
Tue / Thu 9 am  
Classroom: ONLINE  
URL: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-211pinsker>

## US Elections

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"We cannot have free government without elections."  
--Abraham Lincoln, November 10, 1864

## Required

- Baker, Jean H., ed. *Votes for Women: The Struggle for Suffrage Revisited*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Gienapp, William E. *Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- O'Mara, Margaret. *Pivotal Tuesdays: Four Elections That Shaped the Twentieth Century*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015.

## Additional Readings

- Avlon, John. "George Washington's Farewell Warning." *Politico* (2017) [WEB]
- Brands, H.W. "Trump as the new Andrew Jackson?" *Politico* (2017) [WEB]
- Foner, Eric. "The Lost Promise of Reconstruction." *NY Times* (2019) [WEB]
- Freeman, Joanne B. "Chapter 4: Dueling as Politics" in *Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the Early Republic* (2001) [LIBRARY / EBSCO]
- House Divided Project. [Lincoln-Douglas Debates Digital Classroom](#) (2010).
- House Divided Project. [Lincoln's Writings: The Multi-Media Edition](#) (2013)
- House Divided Project. [Prince of Emancipation](#). Google Arts (2016)
- Kaplan, Leah. [1932 Socialists and Election Fraud](#). Dickinson College (Fall 2010)
- Kaplan, Leah. [Socialists and Students in 1936](#). Dickinson College (Fall 2010)
- Keyssar, Alexander. "Strange Career of Voter Suppression." *NY Times* (2018) [WEB]
- Keyssar, Alexander. "Why Has Electoral College Survived?" *NY Times* (2020) [WEB]
- Lyman, Ben. [GI Ballots in 1944](#). Dickinson College (Fall 2010)
- Nelligan, Will. [Theodore Roosevelt in 1912](#). Dickinson College (Fall 2010)
- Pinsker, Matthew. "Short History of Campaign Finance." *CS Monitor* (1997) [WEB]
- Pinsker, Matthew. "Election of 1860." *C-SPAN* (2010) [WEB]
- Pinsker, Matthew. "End of the Civil War." *Smithsonian* (2015) [WEB]
- Poeton, Alex. [Women Voters in 1912](#). Dickinson College (Fall 2010)
- Schutte, Ryan. [1874 Elections in Eufaula](#). Dickinson College (Fall 2016)
- Porch, Scott. "The Book That Changed Campaigns Forever." *Politico* (2015) [WEB]
- Slonim, Shlomo. "The Electoral College at Philadelphia: The Evolution of an Ad Hoc Congress for the Selection of a President." *Journal of American History* 73 (June 1986): 35-58. [JSTOR]
- Sydnor, Charles. "Chapter 4: Swilling the Planters with Bumbo," in *Gentlemen Freeholders: Political Practices in Washington's Virginia* (1952) [LIBRARY / EBSCO]
- Troy, Gil. "How an Outsider President Killed a Political Party." *Politico* (2016) [WEB]
- Wright, Peter. [Election of 1884](#). Dickinson College (Fall 2010)
- Wright, Peter. [William Jennings Bryan in 1896](#). Dickinson College (Fall 2010)
- Zeitz, Joshua. "Epic Fails of US Presidential History." *Politico* (2016) [WEB]

## Course Policies

For details on course policies, especially those regarding attendance, participation, accommodations for disabilities, plagiarism and general learning objectives, please consult the course website: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-211pinsker/course-policies>

## Election Narrative (1776 – 1876)

By Friday, October 2, students will submit a 6 to 8 page narrative essay that analyzes a significant American election contest between 1776 and 1876. Each essay should make sure to situate each campaign narrative in the historical context of the time period. All essays should employ a combination of high quality primary and secondary sources. All essays should also be typed and double-spaced as a Word or PDF document while including a title page with descriptive title and Chicago-style footnotes (no bibliography required). In addition to the essay, students should also submit a custom-made TimelineJS on their chosen election contest. Well-designed timelines can receive up to 5 extra-credit points. Additional information and guidance will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines posted at the course site. Both essay and timeline link should be submitted by email to Prof. Pinsker by 5pm on the due date. Student work will be graded on research effort, depth of analysis and prose quality. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points per day.

## Election Narrative (1876 – 2000)

By Friday, November 6, students will submit a 6 to 8 page narrative essay that analyzes a significant American election contest between 1876 and 2000. Each essay should make sure to situate each campaign narrative in the historical context of the time period. All essays should employ a combination of high quality primary and secondary sources. All essays should also be typed and double-spaced as a Word or PDF document while including a title page with descriptive title and Chicago-style footnotes (no bibliography required). In addition to the essay, students should also submit a short documentary-style video on their chosen election contest. Well-designed videos can receive up to 5 extra-credit points. Additional information and guidance will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines posted at the course site. Both essay and timeline link should be submitted by email to Prof. Pinsker by 5pm on the due date. Student work will be graded on research effort, depth of analysis and prose quality. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points per day.

## Election Web Project

By **Monday, November 30**, students should post an election web project on their own custom-built [Weebly](#) site. Each project should be designed as an online teaching exhibit, revised from material submitted earlier in one of the previous narrative papers, but now focusing on conveying an engaging multi-dimensional perspective. Once again, students should employ a wide variety of primary and secondary sources, but now benefiting from the online platform, they should strive to find ways to provide full-text access to primary sources whenever available. Most important, students should also strive to engage classroom audiences with visual and multi-media tools such as timelines and short videos. Students may embed and curate multi-media elements from outside sources, but they must take care to credit and caption those sources properly. All text content at the student-produced websites should be original and cited with Chicago-style footnotes. Students should submit a link to their website by email to Prof. Pinsker. Late projects will be penalized up to 5 points per day.

## Grade Distribution

Class Participation	30 percent
First Election Narrative	20 percent
Second Election Narrative	20 percent
Election web project	30 percent

Day	Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment
Tuesday	8/18	ZOOM --Methods & Expectations	---
Thursday	8/20	Email --Themes in American Politics	Avlon // Keyssar (2018) // Porch
Tuesday	8/25	ZOOM --Treating and Bumbo	Sydnor chap. + Pinsker
Thursday	8/27	Email --Creating the Electoral Congress	Slonim + Keyssar (2020)
Tuesday	9/1	ZOOM -- Dueling & the Grammar of Early Politics	Freeman chap.
Thursday	9/3	Email --Lincoln and Jacksonian America	Gienapp, ch. 1 / Autobiographical Sketch
Tuesday	9/8	ZOOM --Whigs & Democrats	Gienapp, ch. 2 + Troy
Thursday	9/10	Email --Lincoln on Lincoln	Lincoln's Writings
Tuesday	9/15	ZOOM --Political Realignment of the 1850s	Gienapp, ch. 3
Thursday	9/17	Email --Lincoln vs. Douglas	Digital Classroom + CSPAN lecture
Tuesday	9/22	ZOOM --Election, Secession and War	Gienapp, ch. 4-5
Thursday	9/24	Email --Election of 1864	Gienapp, ch. 6-8 + Blind Memorandum
Tuesday	9/29	ZOOM --Second Founding & Black Voting Rights	Foner + Schutte
Thursday	10/1	Email --Frederick Douglass and Prince Rivers	Pinsker (2015) + Prince exhibit
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10/2</b>	<b>First election narratives due</b>	<b>By 5pm</b>
Tuesday	10/6	NO CLASS (Fall Pause)	
Thursday	10/8	Email --Woman's Rights Origins	Baker, pp. 3-76
Tuesday	10/13	ZOOM --Suffrage Struggles	Baker, pp. 77-129
Thursday	10/15	Email --Toward the Nineteenth Amendment (1920)	Baker, pp. 130-194 + Poeton
Tuesday	10/20	ZOOM -Election of 1912	O'Mara, ch. 1
Thursday	10/22	Email --Election of 1912	O'Mara, ch. 2 + Nelligan
Tuesday	10/27	ZOOM --Election of 1932	O'Mara, ch. 3
Thursday	10/29	Email --Election of 1932	O'Mara, ch. 4 + Kaplan
Tuesday	11/3	ZOOM --Election Day Reporting	Election Day posts: 1860, 1884, 1896, 1936, 1944
Thursday	11/5	Email --Election Aftermath	Zeitiz (2016) + Brands
<b>Friday</b>	<b>11/6</b>	<b>Second election narratives due</b>	<b>By 5pm</b>
Tuesday	11/10	ZOOM --Election of 1968	O'Mara, ch. 6
Thursday	11/12	Email --Election of 1968	O'Mara, ch. 7
Tuesday	11/17	ZOOM --Election of 1992	O'Mara, ch. 7
Thursday	11/19	Email --Election of 1992	O'Mara, ch. 8, conclusion
Tuesday	11/24	ZOOM --Lessons & Legacies	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11/30</b>	<b>Final projects due</b>	<b>By email by 5pm</b>