

HISTORY 211

Dickinson College / Spring 2024
Tue / Thu 9am
Classroom: Denny 211
URL: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-211pinsker>

US Elections

Matthew Pinsker
Office: 61 N. West St
Hours: Wed, 9am to 12pm
Email: pinskerm@dickinson.edu

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

Books

- Joanne B. Freeman, *Affairs of Honor* (New Haven: Yale, 2002)
- Margaret O'Mara, *Pivotal Tuesdays* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2017)
- James Oakes, *The Radical and The Republican* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2008)

Additional Readings

- Akhil Reed Amar, "How Women Won the Vote," *Wilson Quarterly* 29 (Summer 2005): 30-34 [JSTOR]
- Wendy E. Chmielewski, "Her Hat Was in the Ring," Gilder Lehrman, 2017 [WEB]
- January 6 package: [Committee Report](#) // [Recommendations](#) // [RNC Censure \(2/4/22\)](#)
- Knowledge for Freedom seminar (KFF): Declaration of Sentiments (1848) // Sojourner Truth (1851) Susan B. Anthony Trial (1872) Dickinson College, 2023 [WEB]
- Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *American Yawp* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2023-24 ed.), [WEB]
- Steven Mintz, "Winning the Vote," Gilder Lehrman Institute, 2004 [WEB]
- Shlomo Slonim, "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]
- Charles Sydnor, "Chapter 4: Swilling the Planters with Bumbo," in *Gentlemen Freeholders: Political Practices in Washington's Virginia* (1952) [JSTOR]
- Judith Wellman, "Seneca Falls Convention," Gilder Lehrman, 2006 [WEB]
- Barbara Winslow, "Alice Paul, Suffrage Militant," Gilder Lehrman, 2018 [WEB]

Course Policies

Attendance is expected and participation will be evaluated and count toward final grades. Those who miss class for any reason must email a short reflection (about a paragraph or two) on the missed reading assignment within a week of the absence. For further details on course policies, including those regarding electronics, accommodations for disabilities, plagiarism and general learning objectives, please consult the course website: <https://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-211pinsker/course-policies/>

First Essay –Early American Elections

On **Monday, February 19**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a topic about early American election practices provided to them in class on Thursday, February 15. All essays must include source material from the assigned readings and course resources properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes. Outside research is allowed but not required. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Essays will be graded on depth of analysis, use of evidence, and quality of prose. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points each day.

Second Essay –Slavery & American Politics

On **Monday, March 25**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a topic about slavery and American politics provided to them in class on Thursday, March 21. All essays must include source material from the assigned readings and course resources properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes. Outside research is allowed but not required. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Essays will be graded on depth of analysis, use of evidence, and quality of prose. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points each day.

Final Web Projects

The highlight of this semester will be a website project that students will undertake to explain the significance of an important election in US history for a classroom audience. By **Monday, April 15**, students must submit an 8- to 10-page narrative essay on their subject, relying on a range of primary and secondary sources, and employing Chicago-style footnotes. This draft essay will receive a provisional or temporary grade. By **Monday, May 6**, students should revise the draft essay and transform it into a website on the free platform Weebly. Each website should include an array of properly credited and captioned images as well as at least one embedded short video (about 1 to 2 minutes). Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Projects will be graded on depth of analysis, research and design effort, and quality of prose. Late project submissions will be penalized 5 points per day.

Grade Distribution

Class Participation	20 percent
First Essay (Early Elections)	25 percent
Second Essay (Slavery & Elections)	25 percent
Final web projects	30 percent

Day	Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment
Tuesday	1/23	Methods & Expectations	
Thursday	1/25	Voting: A History	Mintz article
Tuesday	1/30	Revolutionary politics	Sydnor chapter 4
Thursday	2/1	Electoral College	Slonim article
Tuesday	2/6	Introducing George Washington	Freeman, intro + prologue + chap 1
Thursday	2/8	Jeffersonians and Hamiltonians	Freeman, chap 2
Tuesday	2/13	Dueling	Freeman, chap 4
Thursday	2/15	Election of 1800	Freeman, chap 5
Monday	2/19	Early Elections essay due	By 5pm
Tuesday	2/20	Antislavery Politics	Oakes, intro + chap 1
Thursday	2/22	Party realignment	Oakes, chap 2
Tuesday	2/27	Election of 1860	Oakes, chap 3
Thursday	2/29	Rebellion and Insurrection	Oakes, chap 4
Tuesday	3/5	Emancipation	Oakes, chap 5
Thursday	3/7	Election of 1864	Oakes, chap 6
Tuesday	3/12	NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK	
Thursday	3/14	NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK	
Tuesday	3/19	Reconstruction	Yawp, chap 15
Thursday	3/21	Other Lincoln-Douglass Debates	Oakes, chap 7
Monday	3/25	Slavery & Politics essay due	By 5pm
Tuesday	3/26	Woman suffrage	Wellman article + KFF pages: Sentiments // Truth // Anthony trial
Thursday	3/28	Woman suffrage	Amar + Chmielewski +Winslow articles
Thursday	3/28	LECTURE: Harold Holzer	Stern Great Room, 7pm
Tuesday	4/2	Election of 1912	O'Mara, chap 1
Thursday	4/4	Election of 1912	O'Mara, chap 2
Tuesday	4/9	Election of 1932	O'Mara, chap 3
Thursday	4/11	Election of 1932	O'Mara, chap 4
Monday	4/15	Final project essays due	By 5pm
Tuesday	4/16	Election of 1968	O'Mara, chap 5
Thursday	4/18	Election of 1968	O'Mara, chap 6
Tuesday	4/23	Election of 1992	O'Mara, chap 7
Thursday	4/25	Election of 1992	O'Mara, chap 8 + conclusion
Tuesday	4/30	Jan. 6th Revisited	Cmte Report + RNC censure
Thursday	5/2	Lessons & Legacies	
Monday	5/6	Final web projects due	By 5pm