



Congressional Politics in America

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May 23-24, 2019

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

The November 2018 mid-term elections set new directions for current American government and politics. In this workshop, we will examine the outcome of that election, the shape of the new Congress, and the implications for the next two years of the Trump presidency. Also considered are the unique characteristics of the U.S. political system such as the division of powers between President and Congress, the electoral system, and current constitutional issues and debates in the U.S.

Other important questions that will be explored in this workshop include the role of the 116th Congress, particularly in addressing issues of concern to Canadians: such as trade, immigration and environmental challenges.

If you are interested in the politics going on south of the border as well as how these politics can impact Canada, you won't want to miss this workshop.

Outline

Day 1 (Morning)

- Studying Congress And The American Political System
- The 2018 Elections: What Happened and Why?
- Political Parties In America After The Mid-Terms

Day 1 (Afternoon)

- Organizing And Managing The 116th Congress
- Congress And The Presidency (Part 1)
- Legislating In Polarized Times

Day 2 (Morning)

- The Economy In 2019
- Social Policy Issues In Contemporary America
- Foreign Policy And National Security

Day 2 (Afternoon)

- Political Issues And Divisions In The 116th Congress
- Congress And The Presidency (Part 2)
- Predicting (?) The Future: The Next Electoral Cycle



WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

●●● DELIBERATING A PUBLIC AGENDA ●●●
●●● FOR FEDERAL ELECTION 2019 ●●●



Suggested readings for the Workshop

- Lawrence C. Dodd & Bruce I. Oppenheimer (eds.), *Congress Reconsidered* (11th edition).
○ Chapters 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 18 <https://www.vitalsource.com/referral?term=9781506328805>
- Marc J. Hetherington & Bruce A. Larson, *Parties, Politics and Public Policy in America* (11th edition).
○ Chapters 1, 5
- Matt Grossman & David A. Hopkins, "Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats: The Asymmetry of American Party Politics." *Perspectives on Politics*, March 2015
- Ross Douthat, "Midterms Deliver an American Stalemate." *New York Times*, Nov. 7, 2018
- Robert Draper, "Nancy Pelosi's Last Battle." *New York Times Magazine*, November 19, 2018
- Lee Drutman, "Political Divisions in 2016 and Beyond." <https://www.voterstudygroup.org/publications/>
- Robert Pear, "Democrats Won a Mandate on Health Care: How Will They Use It?" *New York Times*, November 12, 2018
- Mark Landler, "Trump, the Insurgent, Breaks With 70 Years of American Foreign Policy." *New York Times*, December 28, 2017
- "Special Report: America's Democrats" *The Economist*, July 14, 2018
- Matthew Glassman, "How Republicans Erased Trumpism." *New York Times*, February 1, 2019

NOTE ON READINGS

Credit Students: For New York Times articles, see: <https://search-proquest-com.lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/hnpnewyorktimes/>. **For other sources, visit Course Reserves website for most up-to-date links, where available.**

Non-Credit Students: if you are unable to access these readings through your home institution, please email us at wssr@concordia.ca and we will do our best to assist you.

Other sources and references

- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/11/06/us/elections/results-house-elections.html>
- Elizabeth A. Thiess-Morse, Michael W. Wagner, William H. Flanigan & Nancy H. Zingale. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate* (14th edition). Chapters 2, 3, 4
- "Defining Realignment." *The Economist*, July 30, 2016
- Lawrence LeDuc & Richard G. Niemi, "Voting Behavior: Choice and Context." in Lawrence LeDuc et al, *Comparing Democracies 4: Elections and Voting in a Changing World*
- Michael Lewis-Beck & Mary Stegmeier, "Economic Determinants of Electoral Outcomes." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2000
- John Gerard Ruggie, "The Past as Prologue: Interests, Identity and American Foreign Policy." *International Security* 1997
- Barbara Sinclair, "Doing Big Things: Obama and the 111th Congress." in Bert A. Rockman et al, *The Obama Presidency: Appraisals and Prospects*.
- James E. Campbell et al. "A Recap of the 2016 Election Forecasts." *PS*, April 2017
- "The Republican Party: Triumph and Tragedy." *The Economist*, June 20, 2014
- Elaine Kamarck, "What the Primaries Say about the Future of the Democrats." *New York Times*, October 9, 2018
- Sheryl Gay Stolberg, "Meet the New House Democrats: They May Not Toe the Party Line." *New York Times*, November 12, 2018

