PS 101: Selected Topics in Political Science - The 2024 Presidential Elections
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9 Units (3-0-6)

Fall 2024

Course Introduction
The 2024 general election will likely have a closely contested presidential election, with what could be high levels of voter engagement and participation. Concerns about foreign misinformation and election interference loom large, and there could be considerable delays in reporting the election results. It is also an election where many U.S. Senate and House seats will be contested, with fascinating state and local elections occurring as well.

This course will give students the opportunity to be introduced to different topics regarding this important election — how will the election be administered? Will there be foreign interference in the election, and will it matter in determining the outcome of the election? What role will social media play in the election? Where will candidates raise funds for their campaigns and how will they allocate resources? What issues are going to matter in this election? What might drive increased participation and involvement in electoral politics in November? What will the consequences of this election be for the future of American politics?

Expectations
Each week we will cover a different topic regarding the 2024 Presidential election, and often we will have guest presenters and discussion leaders. Students will be expected to do the weekly readings or other exercises, and to work on a research project that will be due at the end of the final examination period for the fall 2024 quarter. The research projects will cover topics of student interest, relating to the 2024 elections, and be done individually or with another student. Examples of student projects would be studies of vote center operations in Los Angeles County, forensic analyses of election return data, and examinations of mail ballot security.

Grades will be based 70% on the course project, 30% on class participation.