

Presidential Politics Syllabus 2024

Instructor: Dennis Jenkins

AP U.S. History Teacher at South Warren High School in Bowling Green, Kentucky (2017-2023)

Teacher at Warren Central High School B.G, Kentucky from 1994-2017

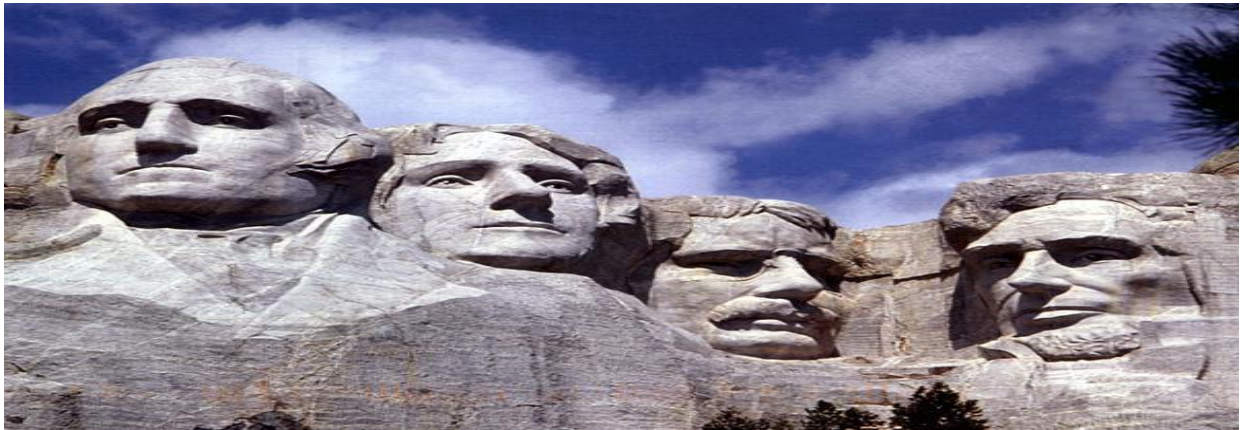
AP U.S. History since 2001 & National Board Certified since 2006

Former Head Counselor at VAMPY from 1999 to 2001 & Residential Counselor at VAMPY 1991-1997

Instructor at VAMPY of Presidential Politics (2004, 2006, & 2010-Present)

Presidential Politics Class Overview for 2024:

This class will explore a variety of issues & decisions that American presidents have faced since 1960. An emphasis will be given to some of the more pivotal decisions, events, & elections that have impacted our nation's history during the last 60 years beginning with the presidency of John Kennedy through Joe Biden. The class will debate issues that modern presidents have dealt with. Students will participate in debates, discussions, & projects that will enhance their knowledge of presidential politics with the goal of improving student's analytical & critical thinking skills. We will examine political campaign strategies, platforms, commercials, debates & satire in presidential elections. We will also role-play & discuss important Supreme Court cases of the last 60 years.



Week One

- June 17 Introduction to Presidential Politics
Examine presidential decisions that changed our country's history from 1789 to 1960
Analyze criteria used to evaluate presidential leadership
Role-Play the first debate between presidential candidates JFK & Richard Nixon
Evaluate some of the biggest events of JFK's presidency & important Supreme Court cases from 1961-1963
- June 18 Examine the legacy of Lyndon Johnson by examining the Great Society, Civil Rights, & Vietnam War
Contrast campaign commercials during the 1964 election
Research the issues that impacted the 1964 election between LBJ & Barry Goldwater
Round-table discussion of some of the biggest Supreme Court cases from 1963-1968
- June 19 Research the 1968 & 1972 elections involving Richard Nixon
Watch campaign commercials of both elections & look at major issues that shaped our country from 1969-1974
Analyze the legacy of Nixon's Presidency by examining domestic events, Vietnam War, Cold War, & Watergate
Group discussion major Supreme Court cases during the Nixon years & Role-Play 'Nixon vs. United States'
- June 20 Examine major events that shaped Gerald Ford's presidency (1974-76) & discuss Ford's pardon of Nixon
Role-Play debate of the 1976 election & contrast campaign commercials
Analyze the major events & issues of the Carter presidency (Cold War, Economy, Iran-Hostage Crisis)
Round-table discussion over important Supreme Court cases of the Carter years from 1977 to 1980
- June 21 Role-Play debate the 1980 election between Jimmy Carter & Ronald Reagan & discuss campaign strategies
Analyze the rise of the conservative movement
Examine major events of Reagan's first term from 1980 to 1984 (Reaganomics, Cold War, Domestic Events)
Beyond Balderdash game over History

Week Two

- June 24 Evaluate the major issues of the 1984 election & contrast campaign commercials
Examine the major events of Reagan's 2nd term (Cold War, Iran-Contra Scandal, Regan's legacy)
Role-Play & Round-Table Discussion of major Supreme Court cases during Reagan's 2nd term from 1985-1988
Begin Research for Mount Rushmore Project & Presidential Face-Off Tournament
- June 25 Role-Play debate between supporters of George H.W. Bush & Michael Dukakis in the 1988 election
Examine the legacy & major events of the Bush years (Domestic issues, Persian Gulf War, Economic issues)
Watch political satire of the Bush presidency from 1989 to 1992 & documentary over the Bush years
Role-Play Supreme Court cases of the Bush years from 1989 to 1992
- June 26 Assessment over Presidential Politics from 1960 to 1992
Contrast political platforms of the presidential candidates in the 1992 election & campaign commercials
Role-Play the 1992 debate between Bush, Clinton, & Perot & Watch political satire over the 1992 election
Discuss major events of Clinton's first term & Supreme Court cases from 1993 to 1996
- June 27 Role-Play debate the 1996 election between Clinton & Bob Dole
Examine big events of Clinton's 2nd term (Domestic & foreign policy issues) & evaluate Clinton's impeachment
Round-table discussion over Supreme Court cases during Clinton's 2nd term from 1997-2000
Research information for Presidential Face-Off Tournament & Mt. Rushmore Project
- June 28 Role-Play the 2000 election between George W. Bush & Al Gore & 2004 election between Bush & John Kerry
Examine Campaign commercials & political satire during the 2000 & 2004 elections
Round table discussions & role-play Supreme Court cases during the presidency of George W. Bush
Watch documentary & research the major issues & events of the George W. Bush years from 2001 to 2008

Week Three

- July 1 Analyze primary sources & key speeches given by American presidents from 1789-1960 that shaped our history
Watch part of documentary over important decisions that presidents made that impacted Presidential Politics
1st round of Presidential Face-Off Tournament
- July 2 Role-Play 2008 election between Barack Obama & John McCain & Watch satire & campaign commercials
Discuss major events of Obama's presidency from 2009-2016
Role-Play 2012 election between Obama & Mitt Romney & watch campaign commercials of the 2012 election
Research & discuss Supreme Court cases of Obama's presidency from 2009-2016
2nd Round of Presidential Face-Off Tournament
- July 3 Research 2016 election between Donald Trump & Hillary Clinton & contrast campaign strategies / commercials
Discuss events of the Trump presidency (Economy, Supreme Court, Impeachment Trials, Pandemic, Jan.6,21')
Quarterfinals of Presidential Face-Off Tournament & Finish research for Mt. Rushmore Project
- July 4 Watch part of movie about our country's independence from Britain on July 4, 1776
Role-Play 2020 election between Donald Trump & Joe Biden, watch campaign commercials, debates, & satire
Examine the events of 1/6/21 & Look at the major events of the Biden presidency (January 2021-Present)
Semifinals of Presidential Face-Off Tournament
- July 5 Take survey of Political Parties in Computer Lab 'Which political philosophy fits your views of past elections'
Championship of Presidential Face-Off Tournament
Second Assessment over Presidential Politics: 1992 to the present
Present your Mt. Rushmore Project
Role-Play a fictional 2024 Debate between potential presidential candidates

Rubric for Evaluation at the end of the class that will be mailed home to parents within a few weeks at the conclusion of Vampy

Class Participation: Debates, Discussions, Court Cases, Role-Plays, Creating Posters, Research & Work Ethic during Study Hall
Critical & Analytical thinking skills during debates, discussions, research concerning Presidential Politics
First Assessment over Presidential Politics from 1960 to 1992 & Editorial over Mt. Rushmore
Study Hall Mount Rushmore Project
Debate as Pres. Candidate or Campaign Manager (1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020)
Presidential Hall of Fame Face-Off Tournament
Second Assessment over Presidential Politics from 1992 to Present & Creative Writing over the 22nd Amendment