CODE: POL 57
COURSE TITLE: Election 2020: A Panoramic View of America’s Decisive Election
COURSE SCHEDULE: Mondays for 9 weeks (September 21 - November 16, 2020)
COURSE TIME: 5:30-7:00pm
DESCRIPTION:
We are living in extraordinary times. The historic convergence of social, economic, and public health challenges has profoundly impacted the lives of millions of Americans. In the midst of great uncertainty, the 2020 U.S. presidential election will be perhaps the most important in our lifetimes. Will Donald J. Trump win re-election amidst high unemployment, deep political polarization, and the COVID-19 pandemic that has upended life as we know it? Or will Joe Biden and a team of Democrats prevail? We will assemble a wide range of expert speakers—including preeminent political, business, foreign policy, and academic leaders—to explore these questions, and more, as we seek to cultivate a broad and informed view of this pivotal election.

Each week, the course will examine major topics at stake for the country. Anticipated topics include: the nation’s coronavirus response; widening inequality across America; racial violence and nationwide protests; the role of technology and media in the election; the state of our economy; the Supreme Court and the rule of law; education policy; climate change; foreign policy; and voting rights.

Please visit continuingstudies.stanford.edu for a full list of guest speakers. Note: This course is designed for the entire Stanford community, and Continuing Studies students will be joined by Stanford graduates and undergraduates.

This course may not be taken for a Letter Grade.

Full Schedule & Topics
[FULL SCHEDULE IN FORMATION - CHECK WEBSITE FOR CONFIRMED SPEAKERS]

Monday, September 21, 2020 (Week 1)
The 2020 Campaign

Monday, September 28, 2020 (Week 2)
Presidential Power

Monday, October 5, 2020 (Week 3)
Role of Technology and Media in the Election
Monday, October 12, 2020 (Week 4)
Race and Inequality in America

Monday, October 19, 2020 (Week 5)
Education Policy

Monday, October 26, 2020 (Week 6)
Climate Policy

Monday, November 2, 2020 (Week 7)
Foreign Policy

Monday, November 9, 2020 (Week 8)
Election Recap

Monday, November 16, 2020 (Week 9)
Moving Forward

Election 2020 Course Instructors:

Pamela Karlan, Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law, Stanford Law School
Pamela Karlan is the Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law and co-director of Stanford Law School’s Supreme Court Litigation Clinic. One of the nation’s leading experts on voting and the political process, she has served as a commissioner on the California Fair Political Practices Commission, an assistant counsel and cooperating attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Professor Karlan is the co-author of leading casebooks on constitutional law, constitutional litigation, and the law of democracy, as well as numerous scholarly articles.

James P. Steyer, Founder and CEO, Common Sense Media; Adjunct Professor, Stanford Graduate School of Education
Jim Steyer is the Founder and CEO of the nation’s leading children’s media and advocacy organization, Common Sense Media. For more than thirty years, Professor Steyer has also taught popular courses on civil rights, civil liberties, and children and education issues at Stanford. He has received a number of teaching honors, including the Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is the author of The Other Parent: The Inside Story of the Media’s Effect on Our Children (2003), Talking Back to Facebook - The Common Sense Guide to Raising Kids in the Digital Age (2012), and the upcoming book Which Side of History: How Technology is Reshaping Democracy and Our Lives (2020).