Welcome to our Open Class!
### A typical cycle of the U.S. Presidential election process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№</th>
<th>Period of time</th>
<th>What happens</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spring of the year before an election</td>
<td>Candidates announce their intentions to run</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Summer of the year before an election through spring of the election year</td>
<td>Primary and caucus debates take place</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>January (early February) to June</td>
<td>States and parties hold primaries and caucuses</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>July to early September</td>
<td>Parties hold nominating conventions to choose their candidates</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>September and October</td>
<td>Candidates participate in Presidential debates</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Early November (the first Tuesday after the first Monday)</td>
<td>Election Day; the election results in each state are then certified</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mid-November – December 19, 2016</td>
<td>Each governor prepares seven (7) Certificates of Ascertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>December, 19</td>
<td>Electors cast their votes in the Electoral College</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Early January of the next calendar year</td>
<td>Congress counts the electoral votes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>January 20, next calendar year at noon</td>
<td>Inauguration Day</td>
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An election for President of the United States occurs every four years on Election Day, held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (Article 2, Section 1, clause 1 of the US Constitution).

The 2016 Presidential election is to be held on **November 8, 2016**.

- Candidates officially enter the “race” to the Presidency
- Campaign is organized for upcoming events
- Network of workers/volunteers (phone calls, publicity, planners, etc.) involved
- Accounts created for future fundraising
According to Article 2, Section 1, Clause 5 of the US Constitution to run for president, the candidate must:
1 – Be a natural-born US citizen;
2 – Be at least 35 years old;
3 – Have been a resident of the United States for 14 years.

- Technically, any person who meets these requirements can declare his or her candidacy for President at any time.
- In reality, however, nearly every president since 1933 has been a governor, senator, or five-star military general. And that's before they even consider getting a party nomination and securing national media attention.
- Candidates must register with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) once they receive contributions or make expenditures in excess of $5,000.
- Within 15 days of reaching that $5,000 threshold, candidates must file a Statement of Candidacy with the FEC authorizing a principal campaign committee to raise and spend funds on their behalf.
Primaries or Primary election – is a preliminary election in which the candidate of a party is nominated directly by the voters.

Normally a political party or a political alliance nominates candidates for an upcoming general election or by-election. A primary election thus narrows the field of candidates before an actual election for office. Primaries are common in the United States, where their origins are traced to the progressive movement to take the power of candidate nomination from party leaders to the people.

The establishment of the primary system resulted from the demand to eliminate the abuses of nomination by party conventions, which were often open to manipulation by party bosses. The primary was first used in local elections – as early as in 1842 in Crawford county, Pennsylvania – первичные партийные выборы, «праймериз».
**Caucus** – a substitute for a primary election; a private meeting run by supporters or members of a specific political party or movement.

In most, participants divide themselves into groups according to the candidate they support, with undecided voters forming into a group of their own. Each group then gives speeches supporting its candidate and tries to persuade others to join its group.

At the end, party organizers count the voters in each candidate’s group and calculate how many delegates each candidate has won.

The term originated in USA, but has spread to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, etc. – предвыборное партийное собрание
• **Nominating convention** – a convention (= a formal meeting of members, representatives, or delegates) held every four years by each major US political party to choose its presidential candidate.

• After the primaries and caucuses, most political parties hold national conventions to finalize their choice for their Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees.

• The national conventions typically confirm the candidate who has already won the required number of delegates through the primaries and caucuses. However, if no candidate has received the majority of a party’s delegates, the convention becomes the stage for choosing that party’s Presidential nominee – съезд партии по назначению кандидата от партии на выборы президента США.
A series of elections are held in every state and overseas territory, starting in February, which determine who becomes each party's official presidential candidate. The winner of each collects a number of "delegates" – party members with the power to vote for that candidate at the party conventions held in July, where candidates are formally confirmed. The more state contests a candidate wins, the more delegates will be pledged to support them at the convention.

Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump – were the winners in 2016 and were officially nominated at their party's conventions in July.

They also officially unveiled their vice-president picks – Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia for Mrs Clinton, and Indiana Governor Mike Pence for the Republicans.
What is general election campaigning?

- **General election campaigning** – a series of coordinated activities, such as public speaking and demonstrating, designed to achieve a social, or political goal of a candidate to be elected – begins after a single nominee is chosen from each political party, via primaries, caucuses, and national conventions.
- These candidates travel the country, explaining their views and plans to the general population and trying to win the support of potential voters.
- Rallies, debates, and advertising are a big part of general election campaigning – кампания, ставящая целью предвыборную агитацию за определенного кандидата в президенты.
Presidential debates – the election debates (= a contention in arguments, dispute, controversy, or discussion especially of questions of public interest) that occur between the main candidates for the American President (almost always the candidates of the two largest parties, currently the Democratic Party and the Republican Party), often after the primary elections.

It has become customary for the main candidates to engage in a debate. The topics discussed in the debate are often the most controversial issues of the time, and arguably elections have been nearly decided by these debates. While debates aren't constitutionally mandated, it is often considered a *de facto* election process.

The debates are targeted mainly at undecided voters; those who tend not to be partial to any political ideology or party. Presidential debates are held late in the election cycle, after the political parties have nominated their candidates. The candidates meet in a large hall, often at a university, before an audience of citizens. The formats of the debates have varied, with questions sometimes posed from one or more journalist moderators and in other cases members of the audience. Debates are broadcast live on television and radio – президентские дебаты.
General election – in the USA a regularly scheduled final national or state election in contrast to a local election. In U.S. politics, general elections occur every four years and include the presidential election; election of all 435 members of Congress's lower house, the House of Representatives, and one-third of the members of the U.S. Senate who face elections of only one-third at a time at two-year intervals including during a general election – всеобщие выборы.

Unlike in other U.S. elections, the President and Vice President are not elected directly by the people. Instead, they’re chosen by "electors" through a process called the Electoral College. The electoral college system does usually reflect the popular vote – in the 52 elections since 1804, 48 of the winners have also achieved the popular mandate.

USA has only two major political parties that dominate the American political system: the Democrats and the Republicans. They share almost all the political power in the country. No one person, law or organization prevents third parties from forming, but the plurality (winner-take-all) system usually hinders their efforts to win votes. There is no incentive to form a party that consistently gets votes but cannot win an election.
The Democratic Party and the Republican Party

### Democratic Party
- **Founded**: 1828
- **History**: The Democratic party can trace its roots back to Thomas Jefferson when they were known as Jefferson’s Republicans and strongly opposed the Federalist Party and their nationalist views. They adopted the donkey as their symbol due to Andrew Jackson who was publicly nicknamed "jackass" because of his popular position of "let the people rule". The Democratic National Committee was officially created in 1848. During the civil war a rift grew within the party between those who supported slavery and those who opposed it. This deep division led to the creation of a new Democratic party, the one we now know today. (Founder: Andrew Jackson, 1828).

### Republican Party
- **Founded**: 1854
- **History**: The Republican party came into existence just prior to the Civil War due to their long-time stance in favor of abolition of slavery. They were a small third-party who nominated John C. Freemont for President in 1856. In 1860 they became an established political party when their nominee Abraham Lincoln was elected as President of the United States. Lincoln’s Presidency during the war, including his policies to end slavery for good helped solidify the Republican Party as a major force in American politics. The elephant was chosen as their symbol in 1874 based on a cartoon in Harpers Weekly that depicted the new party as an elephant. (Founder: Alvan E. Bovay, 1854).
## The Democratic Party versus the Republican Party

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Ideals</th>
<th>Philosophy</th>
<th>Supported Policies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Party</td>
<td>√ Belief in a robust government; √ Promotion of community and social responsibility.</td>
<td>American Liberalism / Modern Liberalism / Progressivism</td>
<td>x Abortion restrictions; x Capital punishment; √ Civilian gun control; x Immigration restrictions; √ Legalization of same-sex marriages; √ Limiting private financing of campaigns; √ Progressive taxation; √ Universal government health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founded 1828</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Party</td>
<td>√ Belief in a limited government; √ Promotion of individual rights and justice.</td>
<td>Conservatism / Fiscal Conservatism / Social Conservatism</td>
<td>√ Abortion restrictions; √ Capital punishment; x Civilian gun control; √ Immigration restrictions; x Legalization of same-sex marriages; x Limiting private financing of campaigns; x Progressive taxation; x Universal government health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founded 1854</td>
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## Head to head: Hillary Clinton versus Donald Trump

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th><strong>Hillary Clinton (New York), 68</strong></th>
<th><strong>Donald J. Trump (New York), 70</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Party</td>
<td>Democratic / Democrat</td>
<td>Republican / Republican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Wellesley College; Yale Law School</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign slogan</td>
<td>It’s Your Time/ Hillary for America</td>
<td>Make America Great Again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths</td>
<td>Huge experience in government. Has the chance to make history as first US female president</td>
<td>Name recognition, deep pockets, a no-holds-barred style which has excited the grassroots who believe he's a &quot;fighter&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaknesses</td>
<td>Faces accusations as untrustworthy and out of touch. Pneumonia diagnosis has brought questions about her health to the forefront.</td>
<td>His brash statements have caused controversy and accusations of incitement to violence from his supporters against protesters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Codename</td>
<td>Secret service codename &quot;Evergreen&quot;</td>
<td>Secret service codename &quot;Mogul&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quote</td>
<td>Americans have fought their way back from tough economic times, but the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top</td>
<td>I’m the most successful person to ever run for the presidency, by far</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Their Vice-President picks</td>
<td>US Senator Tim Kaine (Virginia)</td>
<td>Governor Mike Pence (Indiana)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Election Day** – a day appointed and set by law for the election of public officials. In the United States it is the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November, on which national elections are held in the U.S. in even years. Registered voters cast their votes for President and Vice President. By doing so, they also help choose the electors who will represent their state in the Electoral College. As a matter of fact, Americans technically vote for electors (state officials or senior party figures who are not usually named on the ballot), not the candidates themselves. – День выборов

• **What happens on election day?** On the morning of November 8, polling booths will open in all 50 states and in Washington DC and around 120 million votes are expected to be cast = 120 million people go to the polls to decide whether Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton will become the 45th President of the United States. Counting begins immediately and when voting finishes in the evening the first glimpse of the exit polls (= surveys carried out throughout the day that give an idea of who won) will occur. Usually by around 11pm on the East Coast (= 4am GMT) it has become clear that one side has prevailed. In that case the losing candidate calls the winner to concede (= to admit the results as true and correct). Both candidates will give a speech: one to claim victory; the other to admit defeat.
Why is the election day always the second Tuesday in November?
The election is in November because America was a predominantly agrarian society and November was the quietest for rural workers. It is always traditionally on a Tuesday to allow people living in rural areas time to travel to towns and cities to vote, removing the need to travel on a Sunday. It is always the first Tuesday after the first Monday to avoid the election falling on November 1st. This was to avoid clashing with All Saints Day and the day when businessmen traditionally did their accounting from the previous month.

Are voters just casting ballots for the presidential election?
No. As well as voting for president, Americans are also electing all 435 members of Congress's lower house, the House of Representatives, and one-third of the Senate. Plus, they are voting for a medley (= various types) of local and state officials.
The Electoral College – is a body or group of electors chosen by the voters in each state to formally elect the President and Vice-President of the United States. The Electoral College – consists of a total of 538 electors.

To win a majority and become the US President either candidate needs to accumulate 270 electors – half of the total plus one.

Americans technically vote for electors, not the candidates themselves. Each state’s political parties choose their own slate of potential electors. The electors – are state officials or senior party figures, but they are not usually named on the ballot. Article II, section 1, clause 2 provides that no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector. Choosing each state's Electors is a two-part process.

First, the political parties in each state choose slates of potential Electors by a vote of the party's central committee or nominate slates of potential Electors at their state party conventions sometime before the general election.

Second, on Election Day, the voters in each state select their state's Electors by casting their ballots for President – коллегия выборщиков.
Unlike in other U.S. elections, the President and Vice President are not elected directly by the people. Instead, they’re chosen by "electors" through a process called the Electoral College.

The idea of using electors comes from the Constitution. In 1787 the nation’s Founding Fathers created the electoral college system and saw it as a compromise between electing the President by a popular vote among citizens and electing the President in Congress. Election of the president by Congress was rejected as it was thought to be too divisive. Likewise, electing a president by state legislatures was discounted as it could have eroded federal authority. Electing the president by direct popular vote was also vetoed over fears that people would vote for their favorite local candidate and no president would emerge with a popular majority sufficient to govern the whole country.

The system of electors, based loosely on the Roman Catholic College of Cardinals selecting the Pope, was chosen with the theory that the most knowledgeable and informed individuals from each State would select a president on merit, disregarding state loyalties. The electoral college system does usually reflect the popular vote – in the 52 elections since 1804, 48 of the winners have also achieved the popular mandate.
The number of electors each state gets is determined by how many members of Congress (the House of Representatives and the Senate) the state has. The number of electors is equal to the number of seats the state has in the House of Representatives and the Senate. All 50 US states and Washington, D.C. (3 electors) have a set number of "electors" in the electoral college – roughly proportionate to the size of each state. But not all states are equal and they don't get an equal say. For example, California, the largest state, has 55 electoral votes, while sparsely-populated Wyoming and tiny Washington, D.C. get only 3 electoral votes each.

U.S. territory residents don’t vote in the Presidential election and are not represented in the Electoral College.

All but two states – Maine and Nebraska – use a winner-takes-all system, so if you win the most votes in a state you take its entire haul of electoral college votes. The key for either party to win the presidential election is to target specific battleground states. There are several swing states, that over recent elections have gone both ways. They hold the key to winning the election. The major swing states in 2016 are Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Other important states include Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, Colorado, and North Carolina.
A swing state – is a state in which no single candidate or party has overwhelming support in securing that state's electoral college votes.

Such states (also called battlegrounds) are targets of both major parties in presidential elections: winning these states is the best opportunity for a party to gain electoral votes. Capturing the electoral votes of just one or two of these states can be enough to tip a candidate over the 270 needed to win.
The Electors meet in their respective state capitals and vote for President and Vice President on separate ballots. The electors record their votes on six "Certificates of Vote," which are paired with the six remaining Certificates of Ascertainment. The electors sign, seal, and certify six (6) sets of electoral votes. A set of electoral votes consists of one Certificate of Ascertainment and one Certificate of Vote. These are distributed immediately to the President of the Senate, the Secretary of State, etc.

The Electors meet on the Monday after the second Wednesday in December. No provision of the U.S. Constitution or Federal law requires Electors to vote in accordance with the popular vote in their respective states from which they have been "appointed". However, State law or State Party rules might require Electors to cast their votes for the presidential/vice-presidential candidate to which they have been pledged (=agreed to vote for). 24 states have laws to punish faithless electors.

A faithless elector – is one who ultimately casts an electoral vote for someone other than the person to whom she/he has pledged or does not vote for any person at all. Should not be confused with unpledged electors.

An unpledged elector – is a person nominated to stand as an elector but who has not pledged to support any particular presidential or vice presidential candidate, and is free to vote for any candidate when elected a member of the Electoral College.
• **Inauguration Day** – under the US constitution, the day on which the US president is inaugurated (= is brought in into office by a formal ceremony), being the January 20 (or January 21 if January 20 falls on a Sunday) following the election – день инаугурации, торжественная церемония вступления в должность президента США.

• **When does the new president start work?** In the days and weeks after the election – if the vote is decisive – the victor will assemble a cabinet and begin crafting a more thorough policy agenda. Meanwhile, the departing "lame duck" president works to shape his legacy and begins packing up his belongings. According to law Barack Obama is president until noon on January 20, 2017 – Inauguration Day – when the new president, either Mrs Clinton or Mr Trump, takes over and moves into the White House.

• The inauguration is planned by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. Nine common activities typically occur:
  1) Morning Worship Service; 2) Procession to the Capitol; 3) Vice President's Swearing-In Ceremony; 4) President's Swearing-In Ceremony; 5) Inaugural Address (delivered at an inaugural ceremony by a United States president); 6) Departure of the Outgoing President; 7) Inaugural Luncheon; 8) Inaugural Parade; 9) Inaugural Ball.
Inauguration is held at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC. On this federal holiday, the President-elect and Vice-President-elect are sworn in and take office.

- The Vice-President-elect is sworn in first, and repeats the same oath of office, in use since 1884, as Senators, Representatives, and other federal employees: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

- Around noon, the President-elect recites the following oath, in accordance with Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."
Donald Trump is the 45th President after election win over Hillary Clinton