

## **Presidential Elections in the United States**

Summer, 2012 ~ Instructor: Jim Bolner, Sr.

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July 11, 18, 25, and August 1 - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

We will examine the political and constitutional process involved in nominating and electing the President and Vice-President of the United States. Topics include the role of political parties and the media, campaign financing, voting patterns, and electoral reform.

### **Link to this Page on the Internet:**

<http://www.bodoc.net/lag/y1202lagpresidelect/stjameshandout.pdf>

#### **I. Constitutional Provisions**

The Office of the President - Article II

Articles II, XII, and XXV

The Electoral College

Elections in Practice

#### **II. The Presidential Nominating Process**

Presidential Preference Primaries

Presidential Nominating Conventions

Radio, Television, and the Internet

#### **III. Campaigning Financing**

The Role of Money in Presidential Elections

Money and Access in Presidential Politics

Campaign Finance Regulation Relating to Presidential Elections

#### **IV. Reforming the Electoral College**

Modest Proposals

Immodest Proposals

### **Relevant Materials**

[The Green Papers](#) - A rich site

[Electoral College Video](#) KhanAcademy See [KhanAcademy.org](http://KhanAcademy.org)

[United States Code - Title 3, Chapter 1 - Presidential Elections and Vacancies](#)

On the Election of the President - [Federalist Number 68](#)

Digital History - A Splendid Resource - <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>

U.S. Presidential Elections - <http://www.freewebs.com/uspresidentialelections/>

Federal Election Commission - <http://www.fec.gov/>

[State Control of Electors' Voting](#)

270towin.com - [270towin.com](#) - [Electoral College Calculator](#)  
and [Election Links and Voting](#)

A proposal to have the national popular vote determine the allocation of Electoral College votes - [NationalPopularVote.com](#)

Congressional Research Service, 2007 - [Proposals for Reforming the Electoral College](#)

Campaign Finance Data - <http://www.opensecrets.org/>

An impressive, independent website - <http://politico.com>

2012 Election Central - [Primary Election and Caucus Schedule, 2012](#)

Josh Putnam, <http://frontloading.blogspot.com/> [Blog on the nominating process]

[Louisiana Democratic Party 2012 Delegate Selection Plan](#)

Election Assistance Commission - ["The Electoral College"](#)

[Campaign Finance](#) - *The New York Times* - Compare the campaign coffers of candidates

[Super PACs](#) - From opensecrets.org

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americans\\_Elect](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americans_Elect)

## **Major Court Cases Relating to Presidential Elections**

[Buckley v. Valeo](#) (1976)

[Davis v. Federal Election Commission](#) (2008)

[Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission](#) (2009)

[American Traditional Partnership, Inc. v. Bullock](#) (2012)