



Melbourne Masterclass:

Pivotal Elections in American Politics,
from Abraham Lincoln to Donald Trump

**Thursdays 28 July, 11 August, 20 October and 10 November,
6.15–8.30pm**

The United States will elect its 45th president on November 8, 2016. In the lead up to this significant moment in history, the Faculty of Arts will present a four-part masterclass. Focussing on pivotal moments in presidential election history, the series will take us from the Civil War to Donald Trump.

Each masterclass begins with an overview of a significant year, detailing key events, themes and framing some key questions, which will be discussed in conversation – after a catered break – with another leading academic or industry specialist and the audience.

Melbourne Masterclass:

Pivotal Elections in American Politics, from Abraham Lincoln to Donald Trump

Thursday 28 July: 1860

America breaks apart: Abraham Lincoln and Secession

The election which precipitated the American Civil War is our first focus. How and why did the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 cause the secession of the southern states? Was this conflict avoidable or did the electoral calendar make it inevitable? Why did the Republicans win and with what consequence both then and since?

Speaker

Professor Trevor Burnard, Head of School of Historical and Philosophical Studies

In conversation and Q&A

Lindsay Tanner, former Federal Finance Minister

Thursday 11 August: 1930s

From 1932 to 1940: Roosevelt, Republicans, the New Deal and the Coming of War

In 1940, the Republicans nominated a populist candidate that the party elite shunned. Wendell Willkie, only two years earlier a Democrat, won the nomination on the 6th ballot. Life magazine described the Willkie 'boom' as 'a nationwide shout of contempt for the old-style politicians'. There are many fascinating parallels between then and now. In this session we compare 1940 to 2016, looking at the role of parties as against popular candidates, the role of media, and the underlying, historic shifts in the racial and class constituencies of the two parties.

Speaker

Professor David Goodman, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies

In conversation and Q&A

Jim Middleton, Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, journalist and former ABC US Correspondent.

Thursday 20 October: 1960s

1964: Barry Goldwater and the Conservative Challenge to the Republican Party

Henry Kissinger was among the dazed and shocked Republicans attending the 1964 nominating convention that made the arch-conservative Barry Goldwater the party's presidential nominee. To Kissinger and others, the Goldwaterites were extremists who were ripping the party apart. The parallels with today's presidential campaign are manifest. This masterclass asks what we can learn about America's present and the future by looking at the convulsions in the Republican Party in 1964 and their enduring legacy. Goldwater's nomination resulted in a massive electoral defeat in the short term, but, in the longer term, Goldwater's insurgency refashioned American conservatism, with profound consequences for the Republican Party and for the nation.

Speaker

Associate Professor Barbara Keys, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies

In conversation and Q&A

Maxine McKew, Hon Fellow Melbourne Graduate School of Education, former Labor MP and journalist.

**Thursday 10 November:
21st century**

The end of American politics? – Obama, Clinton and Trump

This masterclass will explore the pervasive pessimism about America's prospects in the current moment. Did the 2016 election confirm that the US Federal system is broken and bankrupt or will be see a rebirth of politics after the Clinton-Trump nadir? Is Trump the most problematic candidate ever nominated? What does his campaign – and the Clinton response – tell us about American politics? What does the result mean?

Speaker

Associate Professor Timothy Lynch, Director of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

In conversation and Q&A

Professor Simon Jackman, Chief Executive Officer, United States Studies Centre

Cost:

Individual session, 2 hours each — \$40 Alumni/ \$45 Non Alumni
Series Pass: 4 double sessions, 8 hour — \$150 Alumni, \$170 Non Alumni

Venue:

Old Arts Building, The University of Melbourne, Parkville
<http://maps.unimelb.edu.au/Parkville/building/149>

Registrations:

<http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/americanpolitics2016>

Enquiries:

Caterina Sciacca, Community Education Manager, Faculty of Arts
caterina.sciacca@unimelb.edu.au or 03 8344 3996