

How We Feel about Politics

Professor Tom Miller, Dept. of English
tpm@email.arizona.edu and 626-0202



Mediating the Influence of the Presidency (December 2)

We will consider how constitutional constraints on the powers of the presidency have been overridden as Presidents have used the media to mobilize popular support. We will discuss how FDR used radio to speak over the heads of Congress to the American people and how JFK's charisma made him a popular force in American life. While the internet played a role in electing President Obama, President-elect Trump used new media in unprecedented ways by Tweeting with his millions of followers to create stories that outpaced 'old' media, including television. Interactive and mass media have reshaped the institution of the Presidency in ways that are useful to consider as we discuss what to expect from the Trump administration.

Readings:

- [Why the Media Love Presidents & Presidents Hate the Media](#)
- ["The Black Swan President"](#)

The Politics of Race, Class, and Gender (December 9)

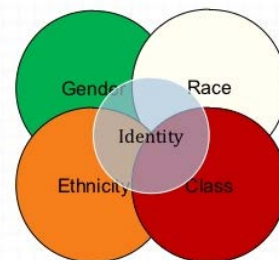
As in our previous class, we will discuss the topics set out in our original syllabus along with themes from previous classes and news on the emerging staff and agenda of the Trump administration. We have used polling data to examine the intersections of race/ethnicity, class, gender, age, and education in the election. As we have discussed, gender turned out not to be as decisive as education and ethnicity. Michael Moore and others have characterized the election as the "last stand for the angry white guy," but as we have also discussed, our demographic differences are not our destiny. To make sense of the identity politics of our times, we will spend this class considering how the politics of gender, class, and ethnicity have evolved over the course of our lifetimes. That evolution has shaped our sense of the domain of politics, which has expanded from a well-bounded domain of deliberations on national issues into the fabric of how we understand daily life as a result of social move. These generational profiles provide useful points of reference for our discussion of the intersections of gender, ethnicity, and education in differing generations.

Readings:

- [Comparing Millennials to Other Generations](#) (database)
- [Generation X: America's neglected 'middle child' r](#)
- [How to Fix Washington: Elect Generation X](#)
- [Generations and Partisanship | Pew Research Center](#)

Suggested Additional Reading:

- ["The Original Underclass"](#)



The First 100 Days and Beyond (December 16)

Our last class will be devoted to discussing President-elect Trump's appointments and other indications of where his administration is headed. We will use President-elect Trump's [First 100 Days Action Plan](#) as a point of departure along with other readings to be announced in the week before class. We will consider the broader question of whether this election will result in a realignment in political ideologies and coalitions, as David Brooks suggested before the election in ["Time for a Realignment."](#) We will also reflect upon strategies and standpoints for those who oppose President-elect Trump's policies.

Readings to follow.