Instructor: Scott E. Gessler
Adjunct Professor

Meeting Times: Tues/Thursday, 4:30-5:45
January 22, 24, 29, and 31;
February 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, and 21

Required Reading: Assigned materials

A combination of federal, state, and local laws shapes how Americans select their president. But more than ever before, Americans are questioning the rules that influence presidential selection, such as the major party primary system, ballot access, presidential campaign financing, and the electoral college. This course examines the laws and regulations that uniquely shape presidential selection, analyzing practical applications as well as the broader constitutional and policy considerations.

A. Candidate nomination

1. Party associational rights and primaries

2. Party associational rights and primaries (continued)
   d. Political science article explaining game theory dynamics.

3. Independent and minor party candidates
   c. Nader v. Keith, 385 F.3d 729 (7th Cir. 2004).
4. Laws favoring the two-party system
   c. Presidential debates
      (4). Potential excerpt from George Farah, No Debate.

B. Campaign finance

5. Contribution limits and political party expenditures
   a. Applicable statutes and regulations
      (1). Contribution limits, 2 U.S.C. 441a(b)-(d).

6. Presidential campaign public financing
   b. 11 C.F.R. § 9901 et. seq.
   d. Commentary article on presidential campaign financing.

7. “527” spending
   b. 26 U.S.C. § 527

8. Nonprofit political involvement
   b. 26 C.F.R. § 501 et. seq.
C. The electoral college and selection of electors

9. Distribution of electoral votes
   d. 2 U.S.C. 2a.

10. State selection of presidential electors
    b. 3 U.S.C. §§ 1-5.
    e. State initiatives
        (1). Proposed Colorado Amendment 36, *Selection of Presidential Electors*.
        (4). Commentary article on impact and constitutionality of initiative proposals.