

THE ADMINISTRATION OF DONALD J. TRUMP: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY?

We will focus on the years of the Donald J. Trump presidency (2017 to 2020), although of course we will look at the earlier years of Trump's "career". We will look at some of the major elements of both domestic and foreign policy. On the domestic side: the failed attempt to "repeal and replace" Obamacare; the massive effort to "deregulate" the economy; the highly successful strategy of appointing conservatives to the federal judiciary; the rejection of federal environmental programs; the major changes in federal immigration policy; federal response to the Covid-19 pandemic; and much more. In foreign policy: US withdrawal from the Paris climate accord; emphasis on withdrawal of US troops from deployment abroad; withdrawal from strategic and nuclear arms agreements; the Kushner peace initiative and US relations with Israel; free trade and tariff wars; US relations with Russia, China, UK, and much more.

I am trained as an historian, and I try to "call 'em as I see 'em" but I have never before taught current history, and I am sure that my own bias will be front and center, so I will try hard to present alternative points of view. I am afraid that I am aware that I cannot pretend to genuine impartiality when it comes to DJT, but I will do my best.

I always use a lot of video material in class, but for this course the amount of relevant material will be overwhelming. The materials I present in class will reflect both contemporary statements and scholarly analysis. There is no single book I know of that I can recommend, but I will pass along suggestions for reading as we go. This will be a Zoom course. I will leave time for some class discussion, and we will use the Zoom "chat" function.

Leader: Stanley Katz recently retired as a Princeton University professor of public policy at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, has trained in history and law.

Fridays: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 6 weeks: February 26 through April 9 (no class on 4/2)

Maximum: unlimited