

“U.S. Elections: Myths and Facts”

19th American Studies Institute

Supported by the Public Affairs Section

of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Roman Kalytchak (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv)

Zoriana Zazuliak (NGO “Lviv Educational Initiative”)

Ivan Franko National University of Lviv is one of the oldest higher education institutions in Ukraine (founded in 1661) and has been continuously ranked among best classical Ukrainian Universities. IFNUL has always been committed to supporting U.S.-oriented teaching activities and in 2011 was the first university in the country to officially introduce a U.S.-focused specialization with the aim of providing a more updated, comprehensive, coherent and multiperspectival understanding of the United States. The Center for American Studies was set up there in 2014 to serve as an organizational umbrella for teaching and research activities. IFNUL accumulated extensive experience in organizing numerous U.S.-oriented academic initiatives, including two previous American Studies Institutes in 2013-2014 and three American Studies multidisciplinary conferences in 2014-2016.

NGO “Lviv Educational Initiative” (<https://lvivedin.com/>) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, established in February 2017 by the representatives of Lviv intellectual elite and young Ukrainian leaders, aimed to develop civil society by organizing educational and scientific events. The organization promotes the development of scientific cooperation, organization and implementation of scientific research in cooperation with organizations and institutions in Ukraine and abroad. Since 2017, LEDIn has organized and co-organized several lectures, conferences, round-table discussions and a summer Leadership Academy.

PROGRAM

Venue: Faculty of International Relations, 19 Sichovykh Striltsiv St., Room 205

WEDNESDAY, May 15

Participants' arrival (Hotel Jam, 6 Akademika Hnatyuka St.)

19:00 – Opening Reception at Jam Hotel

Address: 6 Akademika Hnatyuka St.

THURSDAY, May 16

10:00-10:30

Registration

Address: 19 Sichovykh Striltsiv St., 2 floor, Room 205

(Faculty of International Relations, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv)

10:30-11:00

Welcome and Introductions

Moderated by Roman Kalytchak and Zoriana Zazuliak

11:00–12:00

Core Lecture 1: Culture Wars: Ballot Box Battles and the End of Consensus in America

by Professor Darren Dochuk

12:00-13:00 Lunch

Address: 6 Akademika Hnatyuka St.

13:00-13:30

Opening Remarks:

Mariya Zubrytska **Vice Rector for International Relations,
Ivan Franko National University of Lviv**

Markiyan Malskyy **Dean of the Faculty of International Relations,
Ivan Franko National University of Lviv**

Michael Hackett **Deputy Cultural Attaché
U.S. Embassy in Ukraine**

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| <p>13:30-14:30</p> <p>Core Lecture 2: Age of Fracture: The Fragmenting of US Politics and Society in the Days of Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter</p> <p><i>by Professor Darren Dochuk</i></p> |
| 14:30-14:45 Coffee Break |
| <p>14:45-15:45</p> <p>Lecture “America in the Era of “Fake News”</p> <p><i>by U.S. Fulbright Professor Mark Dillen</i></p> |
| 15:45-16:00 Break |
| <p>16:00-17:00</p> <p>Cap Stone Exercise Discussion</p> |

FRIDAY, May 17

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| <p>09:00 – 10:00</p> <p>Core Lecture 3: Sunbelt Rising: Regional Change, Ronald Reagan, and the Rise of the Right in American Politics</p> <p><i>by Professor Darren Dochuk</i></p> |
| 10:00-10:15 Break |
| <p>10:15 – 11:15</p> <p>“News Media and their Impact on Elections”</p> <p><i>by U.S. Fulbright Professor Mark Dillen</i></p> |
| 11:15 - 11:30 Coffee Break |

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| <p>11:30-12:30</p> <p>Core Lecture 4: Power Shifts: Energy, Environment, and Petro Politics at the End of the American Century</p> <p><i>by Professor Darren Dochuk</i></p> |
| <p>12:30-13:30 Lunch</p> <p>6 Akademika Hnatyuka St.</p> |
| <p>13:30 - 15:30</p> <p>Cap Stone Exercise Preparation</p> |

SATURDAY, May 18

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| <p>09:00 – 10:00</p> <p>Core Lecture 5: America First: Evangelicalism and “God’s Own Party” from Harry Truman to Donald Trump</p> <p><i>by Professor Darren Dochuk</i></p> |
| <p>10:00 - 10:30 Coffee Break</p> |
| <p>10:30 – 12:00</p> <p>Capstone Exercise</p> |
| <p>12:00 - 12:15 Break</p> |
| <p>12:15 -13:00</p> <p>Awarding of Certificates and Closing Ceremony</p> |
| <p>13:00-14:00</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>6 Akademika Hnatyuka St.</p> |

LECTURE TITLES AND BRIEF SUMMARIES

DARREN DOCHUK

Core Lecture 1: Culture Wars: Ballot Box Battles and the End of Consensus in America

In this opening session we will uncover the roots of the polarized politics with which Americans now contend. Through close description and analysis of a few critical political elections—both federal and state—in the 1960s, we will explore how the ballot box became a site of culture war politicking over social, economic, and cultural issues that would eventually divide the nation in seemingly irreparable ways.

Core Lecture 2: Age of Fracture: The Fragmenting of US Politics and Society in the Days of Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter

In the wake of the 1968 federal election, and as Americans grappled with deindustrialization, globalization, geopolitical challenges abroad, and a loss of national certainty and confidence at home in the 1970s, they faced a new era of political fracture. With the help of illustrative electoral pivots at local, state, and national levels, we will trace wider political developments that led to the dismantling of the New Deal liberal (Democratic) order and a moment of profound disruption and reorientation in the American political system.

Core Lecture 3: Sunbelt Rising: Regional Change, Ronald Reagan, and the Rise of the Right in American Politics

As the previous lectures will hint at, one of the critical backdrops to the radical and dramatic shifts in US politics and political culture at this time was demographic and regional transformation. In this session we will dig deeper into these transformations in order to better understand how the Reagan Revolution of the 1980s represented one facet of a broader rightward turn in US politics, a turn that was precipitated by the rise of the new Sunbelt South and its revamped conservatism.

Core Lecture 4: Power Shifts: Energy, Environment, and Petro Politics at the End of the American Century

Our histories of modern US politics tend to focus on economic flashpoints, culture war clashes, and pronounced shifts in domestic and foreign policy concerns. As the previous lectures have highlighted, there is good reason for these foci when trying to make sense of American electoral and political development in the late twentieth century. Yet in this session we will also explore other triggers for political contestation and change, those that revolve around energy and environment and that in the present political moment generate their own momentum at the polls and contribute to America's polarization.

Core Lecture 5: America First: Evangelicalism and “God’s Own Party” from Harry Truman to Donald Trump

In 2016, over eighty percent of American evangelical Protestants voted for Donald Trump, a celebrity-politician whose improprieties seemed to fly in the face of the puritan values that conservative church people deem essential foundations to a Christian America. To this day, evangelicals remain overwhelmingly committed to President Trump, and as such they continue to represent the core of his political base. His success—or failure—in 2020 very much rests in their hands. So why and how has evangelicalism become such a political powerhouse? And what is it about the Trump era that has brought them to the fore of political action on behalf of an America First agenda? In this session we will attempt to understand the transformation by tracking evangelicalism’s political awakening from the years of President Harry Truman to the current moment of President Donald Trump.

MARK DILLEN

Lecture 1. America in the Age of “Fake News”

Digital media in the United States have revolutionized communication, business and politics in ways scarcely imaginable at the start of this century. Promising efficiency and connectedness, social media have also unleashed antagonistic, fact-free discourse — “Fake News.” From international election interference in 2016 to Donald Trump’s use of Twitter, America confronts heated rhetoric and misinformation disguised as fact.

Lecture 2. News Media and their Impact on Elections

American news media, once essential to election campaigns, have struggled in recent years to reinvent themselves. Cable news channels have enjoyed the most success in this effort, particularly as hosts of candidate Town Halls and live debates between Republican and Democratic nominees. The relationship between media and candidates continues to evolve, as campaigns deemphasize traditional media outreach in favor of sophisticated marketing via social media.

SPEAKERS:

DARREN DOCHUK

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Darren Dochuk has written widely on religion, politics, economics, and culture in American life. He is the author of *Anointed With Oil: How Christianity and Crude Made Modern America* (Basic Books, 2019), and *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism* (Norton, 2011), which won the Allan Nevins Prize from the Society of American Historians (awarded for dissertation manuscript), John H. Dunning Prize from the American Historical Association, and Ellis Hawley Prize from the Organization of American Historians. He has co-edited several volumes, including most recently *The Routledge History of the Twentieth-Century United States* (Routledge, 2018), *God's Businessmen: Entrepreneurial Evangelicals in Depression and War* (University of Chicago Press, 2017), and *Faith in the New Millennium: The Future of Religion and American Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2016). Dochuk's research has been supported by several agencies, including the American Council of Learned Societies and National Endowment for the Humanities. He teaches courses that span the entire post-Civil War period but focus particularly on post-1890 developments. He also offers thematic courses on U.S. religious history, political history, American society in the 1960s, 1970s, and the Cold War period, and the history of energy in modern life.

MARK DILLEN

**FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM,
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY**

Mark Dillen is an international communications consultant and media relations specialist. As Director of Dillen Associates LLC, Mark provides public affairs guidance to businesses and NGOs in Europe and the United States. Mark has previously worked as a Senior Foreign Service officer at the Department of State and as a journalist writing for the Center on Public Diplomacy (at the University of Southern California) and the Voice of America. Mark has also been senior media advisor to the U.S. Agency for International Development. He was deeply involved in establishing an international civic education network and produced materials on the U.S. electoral process for the Foreign Policy Association.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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