

On the US – 2024/2025

Themes in the program: politics / law and order / education / human rights / democracy

US Political system

Key concepts and debates:

- The tripartition of power
- Checks and Balances
- The working, the limits, the decisions and the need for reform of the Supreme Court
- The working of the Presidential Elections
- Key Supreme Court decisions

+ Oral presentation on the Supreme Court + DM1 on the Supreme Court & bribery

Education

Key concepts and debates:

- Race-conscious education
- Critical Race Theory
- Book bans
- Freedom of speech on US campuses
- Censorship of curriculum
- War on wokism
- Affirmative action in school admissions
- The voice of parents in the school curriculum
- Wave of conservatism in US education
- Legacy admissions

Examples (class and oral exams):

- Handling of free speech on US campuses (2 videos + 1 CC)
- The looming crisis of truancy (1 video)
- The resegregation of America's schools (1 video)
- Asian-American students and the end of affirmative action (1 video)
- Texas bans on climate education (1 CC)

- Anti-woke curriculum censorship in Florida (1 CC)
- Book bans in Florida schools (1 CC)
- 10 Commandments in Louisiana schools (1 CC)

Additional elements to be read about on the website news:

- Unschooling parents put their kids in charge of their own educations
- New survey finds a majority of teachers say state governments have too much influence over what's taught in classrooms`
- Parents can't opt K-5 children out of LGBTQ curriculum: appeals court
- GOP leaders are calling for religion in public schools. It's not the first time.
- Satanists to volunteer in Florida schools in protest at DeSantis religious bill
- U.S. colleges revise rules on free speech in hopes of containing anti-war demonstrations
- Cops on campus: Why police crackdowns on student protesters are so dangerous
- Free speech at American universities is under threat
- U.S. House passes 'anti-woke' bill aimed at diversity, equity and inclusion in higher ed
- How elites use zoning and NIMBYism to keep the working class out
- Austin's Anti-Woke University Is Living in Dreamland
- Harvard's Black Student Enrollment Dips After Affirmative Action Ends
- Mixed results in college admissions diversity post-SCOTUS affirmative action decision
- Mastermind of US college admission bribery scheme sentenced to 3.5 years
- Wealth looms big as ever in post-scandal college admissions
- Leveling the playing field: why it's time to ban legacy admissions
- Book bans are accelerating across the country amid right-wing pressure campaign
- A Side Effect of Anti-CRT Campaigns? Reduced Trust in Local Schools
- GOP platform promises funding cuts for 'woke' schools, no teacher tenure, school choice for all

- 'They Came for the Schools' details how GOP targeted race and identity in classrooms
- The backlash against "wokeism" has led a growing number of states to ban D.E.I. programs at public universities.
- 'It's just a mess' - Left in limbo by US student loan logjam
- Video Ad Feedback 'It's insane': Teacher praises technology that protected students during shooting
- Experts worry about a heavier police presence in schools: 'Black and brown children bear the brunt of criminalization'
- Trump wants to shut down the Department of Education. Here's what that could mean
- Against Ten Commandments in schools? Tell your kid not to look, governor says.
- 70 years after Brown vs. Board of Education: A third of schools predominantly same-race/ethnicity
- Trump and Project 2025 are attacking the Department of Education. How might they reshape US schools?
- Columbia University threatened with subpoenas over U.S. House antisemitism investigation
- About half of Americans say public K-12 education is going in the wrong direction
- Red states strike deals to show controversial conservative videos in schools
- 'Code words and dog whistling': why the conservative attack on higher education is so efficient
- For Republican Governors, Civics Is the Latest Education Battleground
- Schools told not to teach about gender identity

Guns

Key concepts and debates: (for each element, an example should be taken in the "culture file" and learnt)

- Conceal carry vs open carry
- Castle Doctrine
- Yellow and Red flag laws
- Ghost guns

- Bumpstocks
- Assault weapons ban
- Universal background checks
- Buy-backs
- The role of the NRA (gun lobby)

Examples (class and oral exams):

- New California gun laws coming into effect in 2024 (1 video)
- Harris and Trump's stances during the presidential campaign (1 video)
- The Supreme Court's ruling on ghost guns (1 video)
- Autumn Fry: the gun kidfluencer (1 video)
- North Carolina opposing gun violence solutions (1 cartoon)
- Permitless conceal-carry for Louisiana (2 cartoons)

Additional elements to be read about on the website news:

- Just a hobby or reckless marketing gimmick? The world of kid gun influencers.
- Man Plotted Mass Shooting in Atlanta to Incite 'Race War,' Officials Say
- Supreme Court appears likely to uphold regulation of ghost guns

+ Oral presentation on gun issues in the US

US Elections

Key concepts and debates:

- Attack ads
- Young people turnout
- Voting suppression
- Mail-in voting
- Voter fraud
- Democrats rebranding during the campaign
- Election lies
- Disinformation
- The vote of black and latino people
- The role of Elon Musk in the 2024 campaign and after and the new tech right
- The candidates' programs

- The non-citizen voting myth and purged voter rolls

Examples (class and oral exams):

- Voting suppression in Arizona
- Mail-in voting in Pennsylvania
- Nebraska Supreme Court restores felon voting rights (1 video)
- Voter suppression in Georgia (1 video)
- Project 2025 (1 video)
- The place of abortion rights in the 2024 elections (1 video)
- Ballot drop boxes set on fire in Washington State (1 cartoon)
- Faulty absentee ballots in Pennsylvania (1 article)
- North Carolina voter ID challenge (1 article)

Additional elements to be read about on the website news:

- The U.S. has one of the most punitive criminal justice systems — unless you're the president
- Trump is empowering conservatives critical of Big Tech
- How Trump Won, and How Harris Lost
- Results of Ballot Measures 2024
- How Meta, TikTok, YouTube and X are moderating election threats
- No, a Voting Machine Did Not 'Flip' a Vote in Georgia
- Last-minute challenges in battleground Pennsylvania target thousands of mail-in ballots
- Harris and Trump make final push in must-win Pennsylvania
- Rural Arizona shows how Trump allies could try to thwart election certification
- Why Is Trump Gaining With Black and Hispanic Voters?
- Supreme Court allows Pennsylvania voters to fix faulty absentee ballots
- Opinion: Yes, there is voter suppression in Tennessee. Here's the key to overcoming it
- Top Civil Rights Lawyer Sounds Alarm on 'Highly Orchestrated' Voter Suppression Days Before Election
- Early ballots cast as advocates warn of voter suppression and intimidation efforts

- NAACP Urges DOJ to Investigate Newly Implemented Georgia Voter Suppression Program
- U.S. Presidential Election: In Focus: Americans divided on new voting restrictions, as minorities voice concern over voter suppression
- Thousands of West Virginians are having their voting rights suppressed
- Civil rights groups warn of potential voter suppression ahead of Election Day
- Voter suppression isn't new. DeSantis elevated strategy to an art form, critics say.
- Pennsylvania's early-voting option is a mess, but very popular
- Missouri voters may overturn one of nation's strictest abortion bans
- Raffensperger says viral video of alleged voting fraud 'obviously fake' and likely foreign meddling in Georgia's elections
- Divided Supreme Court allows Virginia to purge suspected non-citizens from voter rolls
- Anti-immigrant activists draft bill requiring US citizenship proof to vote
- GOP lawsuits about an obscure immigration database may set up election challenges
- Republicans' non-citizen voting myth sets stage to claim stolen election
- How Republicans mainstreamed the baseless idea of noncitizen voting in 2024
- Georgia official warns of likely Russian interference in presidential election
- Georgia judge blocks requirement that counties hand-count ballots
- Will a disturbing scoop about Trump and Putin affect Trump's electoral chances?
- Trump vs. Harris magnifies America's generational and cultural divides
- How social media assassination conspiracies are uniting pro- and anti-Trump voters
- Boeing Starliner astronauts are unexpectedly spending Election Day in space. Here's how they will cast votes
- Project 2025: The right-wing wish list for another Trump presidency
- JD Vance is a rightwing troll disguised as a populist. He could be our next vice-president

- The Democratic changeover has made a difference, but a small one
- Tim Walz is a bold, smart choice for Harris's running mate
- Harris taps Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as Democratic running mate
- With voting under attack, Arizona schools don't want to be polling locations
- Trump's social media suggests a campaign scrambling from Biden leaving 2024 race

+ Oral presentation on the US Elections

Civil Rights & the Supreme Court

Key concepts and debates:

- The working of the Supreme Court (cf. culture file)
- The conservative turn of the Supreme Court on race, immigration, abortion, free speech...

Examples (videos):

- US Supreme Court bans race-based university admission
- Supreme Court case to determine access to gender-affirming care for minors
- Inside the Supreme Court's negotiations and compromise on Idaho's abortion ban
- Supreme Court Delivers SHOCKING Verdict on Immigration
- Supreme Court hears cases involving free speech rights on social media
- SCOTUS Sides With Feds In Social Media CENSORSHIP Case

Additional elements to be read about on the website news:

- The Supreme Court Made Us Forget Why Diversity Matters Most
- Some Maga men seem to think women don't have rights – starting with their wives
- Florida abortion-access amendment fails, keeping 6-week ban in place
- Facial recognition technology used to solve crimes in Central Florida
- Florida asks Supreme Court to allow its anti-drag law to take effect

- Biden administration asks Supreme Court to let it enforce anti-discrimination rules for pregnant women in schools
- Tracking Abortion Bans Across the Country
- New anti-immigration laws' real focus is the U.S. Supreme Court, report says
- No guns for domestic abuse suspects, top US court rules

+ Oral presentation on culture wars & earlier elements (DS) on masculinism (Tradwives / DigniAI)

US Economy

Key concepts and debates:

- Housing Crisis (DM)