Helen R. Desfosses

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 THE POLITICS OF THE 2018 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

I COURSE DESCRIPTION

WEEK ONE: BACKGROUND: While the President does not run in midterm elections, all 435 members of the House of Representatives do, as well as dozens of United States Senators. Yet the President’s stature and policies strongly influence the midterm elections, and he cannot escape their impact on the last half of his first term, and whether he will be nominated for, and elected to, a second term. This course will analyze this two-way impact.

WEEK TWO: PATTERNS AND POSSIBILITIES IN MIDTERM ELECTIONS: The course will also investigate what has happened historically in midterm elections (the party out of power usually gets stronger), as well as what is likely to happen in 2018.

WEEK THREE: INFLUENTIAL ISSUES AND FORCES: This course will also assess influential issues, ranging from the uniqueness of Donald Trump, the Mueller investigation, the publication of the book, “The Fire and the Fury,” nuclear issues, health care policy after the GOP effort to repeal and replace Obamacare, to immigration, crime, employment, foreign policy, and the Trump campaign slogan, “Make America Great Again.” We will also examine political forces that will play a significant role, including citizen action, the role of women, rivalries between workers and elites, and the chaos within both major political parties.

WEEK FOUR: Our final lecture will explore the likely impact of the 2018 midterm elections on our country’s ongoing political environment, the political fortunes of our President, and the impact that the 2018 midterm elections are likely to make on the 2020 election. Predictions will be made and shared.

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#  IMPORTANT RESEARCH SOURCES

#  FOR ELECTORAL POLITICS (partial list)

# I NEWSPAPERS OF RECORD

#  A. NEW YORK TIMES

#  B. WASHINGTON POST

# LOS ANGELES TIMES

# LONDON TIMES

#  WASHINGTON EXAMINER

#  LOS ANGELES TIMES

#  WALL STREET JOURNAL

# II SPECIALIZED WEB SITES

# POLITICO—ANALYSIS AND CARTOONS

# REALCLEARPOLITICS--DAILY ROUNDUP OF POLITICAL NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

#  C. GOOGLE AND SCHOLARGOOGLE.COM

#  D.WEBSITES OF EVERY PARTY, CANDIDATE,

#  NETWORKAND POLLSTERS, RANGING FROM

#  FOX NEWS TO BLOOMBERG NEWS

# THINK TANKS (SEE LISTS OF 50)

#  1.LARRY SABATO, CRYSTAL BALL

#  2. BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

#  3. POLITICO

#  4. AMERICAN PROSPECT

#  5 .HERITAGE FOUNDATION

#  6. CATO INSTITUTE

#  7. AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

#  8. MANHATTAN INSTITUTE

#  9. HOOVER INSTITUTION

#  10.RAND CORPORATION

#  11. AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

#  F. POLITICAL CARTOONS (POLITICO)—SAMPLE

#  FROM CARTOON CAROUSEL, FEBRUARY 16,

#  2018, #2, 3 and 13.

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