The seminar will look at the 2016 election and encourage students to think in a rigorous and scholarly way about a topic that many of them will be talking about anyway. We will follow the ups and downs and twists and turns of the election season, but we will also place these issues in historical context, use the insights of political scientists to challenge conventional wisdom or journalistic clichés, and turn to communications research to understand how the election is being portrayed to voters. We will study topics such as negative advertising, presidential debates, the nomination process, and the role of the media.

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