

# 2024 Elections: Democracy At Stake?

Elaine Jacoby

## Course Information

Wednesdays from 1:30–3:30 p.m. for eight weeks beginning October 2 through November 20.

**HYBRID - LECTURE/DISCUSSION - MAX 30**

## Course Description

This class will discuss the upcoming Presidential election, which may be top of mind for many, but the Congressional elections are not less consequential. Will Democrats lose control of the Senate this November? Will they take back the House of Representatives? As in the past, this class will track key Congressional races, and class members will be actively involved in this process.

Equally important are the issues that are likely to dominate the electoral process. No doubt much will be said about pocket-book issues like inflation, but, as the title of the course suggests, the future of democracy may well be at stake in these elections. As a basis for discussion, the class will first establish its understanding of the meaning of democracy. It will then focus on identifying and discussing potential threats to democracy, such as vitriolic partisanship, potential executive branch takeover of the justice system, disinformation affecting social media and spreading throughout the press, as well as legislative paralysis and its potential economic consequences. Nor are topics that have previously animated many candidates and some portions of the electorate likely to go away. At the top of the list: immigration; gender issues, including sexual identity and women's reproductive rights; and education. Some candidates will undoubtedly try to make abortion the key issue. Other candidates and their supporters are likely to cast immigration as a threat to the American way of life. The class will discuss as many of these issues as possible.

The 2024 elections are likely to be the most consequential in decades. The outcomes will significantly affect the future course of the country, its

governance, the economy and foreign relations.

No text will be required for the course, but on-line sources and handouts will be provided.

Recommended reading for background and discussion will also be listed on a syllabus to be provided before classes begin.

## **Leader**

Elaine Jacoby is a retired attorney who leads courses on civil rights and politics.