SYLLABUS: Covering the midterm elections (in real time), JRN 3900, Fall 2018

Professor: Gregg Birnbaum, adjunct assistant professor

Class hours: This hybrid class meets at 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Friday, VC 7-160 (Studio H)

Office hours: Fridays after class, 11:05 a.m.-12 p.m.; cubicle 7-260F in the journalism department offices

Email: gregg.birnbaum@baruch.cuny.edu backup email: ggbirnbaum@aol.com

Phone/text: 917.414.1622

LEARNING GOALS:

• Master the basic techniques of reporting and writing politics/campaign news stories.

• Achieve an in-depth understanding of the 2018 midterms election cycle, including the candidates, the issues, the stakes, the political party organizations, toss up races and President Donald Trump's role.

• Use the New York campaign trail as an opportunity for students' real-world coverage of debates, campaign events and protests.

• Gain proficiency in identifying political trends and the concerns of voters through interviews and polling.

• Become familiar with the issue of alleged bias surrounding politics reporting; identify the highest ethical standards for political journalists.

• Become knowledgeable about candidates' use of social media platforms, fundraising and campaign advertising.

• Learn about politics "fake news" and "fact checking" candidates and their statements.

• Develop the professional mindset of a political journalist.

PREREQUISITES:

• Curiosity about politics, government, the midterms (and the 2020 presidential race).

• Passion, hard work, you care about issues.

• Enjoy listening, talking to people, discussion, trying to divine the national "mood of the electorate."

• Like to read, write, research.

- Embrace constructive criticism, use it to improve.

INSTRUCTOR BIO:

Professor Birnbaum is the Senior Politics Editor at NBCNews.com, where he is currently supervising online coverage of the 2018 midterm elections. Professor Birnbaum also oversees reporting on President Donald Trump and his administration, Congress, Supreme Court and federal agencies. Previously, Professor Birnbaum was a Senior Editor on the CNN.com politics team from 2015-2017, handling breaking news, the live blog for the 2016 presidential contest, as well as defense/national security coverage. Other positions held by Professor Birnbaum include: Managing Editor/Head of Political Content, New York Daily News; a Deputy Managing Editor, Politico; and Political Editor, The New York Post.

Professor Birnbaum has been in the news business for more than 30 years as a reporter and editor working almost exclusively on local, state and national politics and government, beginning his career - and his love affair with journalism – in print as a copy kid at The Wall Street Journal before moving to exclusively digital platforms later in his career. Professor Birnbaum received his Master of Science degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and has been teaching at Baruch since 2014.

GROUND RULES:

- **Be on time. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late for class, you will be marked absent.** If you must miss a class, you need to inform me **before** class begins by email or text as soon as you know that you won't be able to make it and provide the reason in order for it to be considered as an excused absence. If you miss class for any reason, you are expected to make up the assignments and readings. (Keep in mind that missed lectures, class discussions and guest speakers can never be made up – you simply lose out if you are not present.)

- Because this hybrid class meets only once a week, the mid-week assignments take the place of the second class. The course is "asynchronous," meaning that the mid-week assignments do not have to be done at a specific time each week, but are generally due the following Tuesday after the assignment is made on Friday. Failure to complete mid-week assignments will count as unexcused absences. Under Baruch policy, if you are a freshman or sophomore and are "absent" more than four times, either by failure to attend class or complete assignments or a combination thereof, I am required to give you a WU grade, which counts as an F. If you are a junior or senior and are absent more than four times, I *may* give you a WU grade for the excessive absences if I choose to do so. The WU grade may be given any time prior to the last class.

- You may not text, email, tweet, IM or surf the web during class (unless it's for an in-class assignment). If there's an emergency, please leave the classroom to deal with it. Laptops and smartphones may be used during class only for note-taking. (We will take a five-minute break at the halfway point of each class.)

• Class sessions are "off-the-record." No tweeting, Facebooking, blogging or audio or visual recording of class activities or discussions is permitted during class or at any time afterward.

• Some of my communication with you will take place through Blackboard and it is essential that you check your Baruch email on a daily basis. I use Blackboard regularly to send important group emails to the class and you miss those at your own peril. **(Blackboard group emails work only with CUNY email addresses; you will not receive the class group emails unless you are checking your CUNY email address.)**

• All assignments must be completed by deadline. That's good training for the news business (and other professions) and we've got a lot of material to cover over the semester so it's vital to keep up with the work. (If there are special circumstances that you think may warrant a deadline extension, please raise them with me – **before** the deadline has passed.)

Penalties for late assignments: An assignment submitted up to a week late will be penalized by an automatic reduction of one full grade; if it is over a week late, the grade will be lowered by two full grades. And if you fail to complete an assignment during the semester, you will receive an **automatic F grade** on that assignment. **In this course, an F grade on an assignment equals zero for the purpose of calculating your final course grade.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must promptly read and absorb the feedback, editing and critiques that I return to you on submitted assignments. I will not accept the same mistakes being made over and over as we progress through the semester. If you have questions about any of my feedback or grading on a particular assignment, please see me.

• Carefully proofread all your assignments before turning them in for grammar, style, punctuation and spelling. Work that is full of careless errors – for instance, names and places misspelled or incorrect information — will be returned ungraded and must be redone and resubmitted to receive credit.

• All assignments must be sent to me by email as attachments. Send only one assignment with each email. If you have two assignments to send at the same time, attach them in separate emails. The email subject line should contain the assignment title and date due. For instance, Home assignment/poll story/Sept 14.

I will accept assignments only in the .doc format. The first page in the doc should contain, at the top of the page, the story "slug" (the one-word "name" of the story in capital letters, i.e., POLLSTORY), your name, date and the word count. Please use double-spacing between paragraphs. (If you would like to put headlines on your assignments, please label the headlines as such.) At the bottom of the assignment, type "30" – the traditional journalism marking that indicates the end of the story has been reached.

PLAGIARISM AND FABRICATION:

These are the equivalent of felony crimes in academia and in journalism. Plagiarism and fabrication will not be tolerated. I will fail you on the assignment and report you to college

administrators if I have evidence that you have copied or used someone else's work without providing appropriate credit, including taking from a previously published story or article, in whole or in part, any quotes or other material for use in your assignment without indicating the source of the information, have made anything up, or have submitted an assignment that was done, in whole or in part, by someone else. I will use my 35 years of experience to detect cheating and, when needed, turnitin.com. Also, you are not permitted to submit work for this class that has been or is being submitted for another course.

We will talk about plagiarism and fabrication in the first class, and I will answer any questions you have so that everyone is clear on this important issue. You should take academic integrity very seriously; I do. If you have questions about assignments as you are doing them, ask me.

In addition, visit www.baruch.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html to read the college's policies about academic honesty and send me an email confirming that you understand the principles and will follow them.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Politics is something to talk about. Active participation in this course is required; questions, comments, debate and discussion are not only encouraged, they are essential and the basis for a substantial part of your grade (see below). Respectful disagreement with your fellow students and/or your professor is invited.

CONTACTING ME:

My preferred means of communication is by email. You can reach me at gregg.birnbaum@baruch.cuny.edu, which I check daily and should be our main way of contact, or at my backup personal email (ggbirnbaum@aol.com) if the Baruch system is down. You can text me at 917.414.1622 in an emergency. If you need to speak with me for any reason, either by phone or in person, please let me know and I will make time. Each Friday after class during the semester, I am also available in my office on campus for one hour. Please make use of this opportunity – I am approachable and welcome the chance to interact with students.

GRADING:

Four substantial articles account for 60 percent of the final grade. Each assignment must be discussed with me in advance for approval. The assignments are:

•   **"The Speech," Week 4, September 21:** Attend and report on a candidate speech/event/rally. Write a 650-word story. Due: Friday, October 5, 5:00 p.m. This assignment counts for 15 percent of your course grade.

•   **"The Debate," Week 6, October 5:** Cover a candidates' debate. Write a 650-word story. This assignment counts for 15 percent of your course grade. Due: Friday, October 19, 5:00 p.m.

• **"The Voters," Week 8, October 19:** In a NYC congressional district, interview 10 people who say they intend to vote on Nov. 6. Who are they voting for, why, what issues have motivated them, what do they think of each of the candidates. Write a 650-word story based on the interviews. This assignment counts for 15 percent of your course grade. Due: Friday, November 2, 5:00 p.m.

• **"The Aftermath," Week 11, November 9:** This assignment counts for 15 percent of your grade. Due: Friday, November 30, 5:00 p.m.

The remaining 40 percent of the final course grade is composed of:

- Class participation makes up 20 percent;
- Combined mid-week and weekly home assignments, not including the four major assignments above, are worth 15 percent; and
- Quizzes account for the remaining 5 percent.

There are no mid-terms or final exams for this course and there is no extra-credit opportunity.

Work materials required for various in-class, mid-week and home assignments, will be provided to the students.

READINGS:

• There is no textbook. The readings are drawn from a variety of sources and links to them are provided in this syllabus.

• Required daily news dosage: You must read about politics. The midterms are taking place over the semester and there's only one way to keep up – by devouring the extensive media coverage. Some good places to start for politics news are The New York Times, the Washington Post, CNN, POLITICO, The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg News and NBCNews.com. There are many others.

• **Daily newsletters/tip sheets**: There are several excellent politics email newsletters, most arrive in the morning to start the day, that contain scoops, links to important stories, analysis, campaign trail tidbits and more. It's perhaps the best way to keep on the midterms. There are several that I recommend. Take a look, pick one and sign up. They're all free:

NBC's First Read: https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/first-read (the signup box is on the right side of the page toward the top)

Politico's Playbook: https://www.politico.com/playbook (the signup box is at the top of the page)

Axios: https://www.axios.com/newsletters (there are three relevant newsletters on politics. I recommend Mike Allen's morning newsletter)

The Washington Post's The Daily 202: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2018/08/03/daily-202-tom-steyer-rips-democratic-establishment-for-resisting-trump-

(The signup is at the top, toward the right)

TWITTER:

It's used by virtually all political journalists. It's the single best way to keep up on the vast amount of politics and campaign news. If you aren't already on Twitter, take a few minutes to get there by setting up an account, which is free and easy to do. To get started, some useful politics news accounts to follow, other than the media outlets mentioned above, include: @AP_politics; @axious; @realclearnews; @cookpolitical; @nprpolitics; and @DRUDGE. There are hundreds of others for politics; add candidates, their campaigns, advisers, experts and prominent political journalists to your Twitter feed as we learn about them in class or as you discover them in other ways. And consider following your classmates. I also would suggest @BaruchCollege, @DandSmagazine and @BaruchTicker. (If you would like a program to organize your Twitter feed, I recommend TweetDeck.) If you have any questions, please see me.

MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

You will need a reliable internet connection and browser, regular access to a laptop and/or desktop computer, a working knowledge of basic word-processing software, an active Baruch email account, and access to Blackboard. A smartphone or access to one to record audio and take pictures for assignments also would be helpful. If you don't have a smartphone, please discuss alternatives with me.

ACCESS:

Students with disabilities may be eligible for a reasonable accommodation to enable them to participate fully in courses at Baruch. If you feel you may be in need of such an accommodation, please contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at 646.312.4590.

WEEK 1: FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Topic: Course introduction/Midterms overview

Key points covered in class:

- • Introductions/Course learning goals/Syllabus review
- • Class rules, including plagiarism-fabrication, grading, deadlines, attendance and instructor expectations
- • What are the midterm elections? Why do they matter, what's at stake? Brief history

Home assignment: Write 400-450 words about your interest in journalism/politics, any relevant experience you've had reporting and/or working/volunteering in politics, and what you hope to get out of this course. Due: Tuesday, Sept. 4, 5:00 p.m.

Readings:

- By David Usborne, **"US midterms – What are they and why are they so important?"** The Independent. https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-midterms-what-are-they-and-why-are-they-so-important-9820971.html

- By Alex Seitz-Wald, **"Everything you need to know about the 2018 midterm elections,"** NBCNews.com. https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/everything-you-need-know-about-2018-midterm-elections-n832226

- By Matthew Yglesias, **"The media ignored the policy stakes in 2016 — don't make the same mistake again in the midterms,"** Vox.com. https://www.vox.com/2018/5/22/17377384/midterm-elections-2018-policy-stakes

WEEK 2: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Topic: What's driving the election, issues/Writing about polls/Cuomo-Nixon primary

Key points covered in class:

- Key issues at play in the midterms, including: #MeToo; immigration, health care, the economy/Unknowables
- Understanding and writing about polls
- Preview of the Cuomo-Nixon gubernatorial primary on Thursday, September 13

Home assignment: Write a 400-word news story based on a poll, with a hard news lede, details from the survey findings, including Republican, Democratic and independent cross tabs, relevant commentary from the pollster. Don't forget to include margin of error/methodology. Due: Friday, Sept. 14, 5:00 p.m. (The link to the poll will be provided in class.)

Readings:

- By Deirdre Shesgreen and Eliza Collins, **"Exclusive: Immigration dominates GOP candidates' TV ads in House contests across the country,"** USA Today. https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/05/29/immigration-dominating-gop-tv-ads-house-contests/638063002/

- By Jesse McKinley, **"Governor Cuomo Holds 36-Point Lead Over Nixon in New Poll,"** New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/18/nyregion/cuomo-poll-cynthia-nixon-ny-governor.html

- Mark Penn, **"Polling could be missing reality, again,"** The Hill. http://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/398940-polling-could-be-missing-reality-again

WEEK 3: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Topic: The political journalist and bias/Cuomo-Nixon, con't

Key points covered in class:

- • Ethics of political reporting
- • Discussion of Project Veritas, watch undercover video
- • Social media
- • Should political reporters vote? (I don't…)
- • Recap of the Cuomo-Nixon primary

Mid-week assignment: Read POLITICO's conflict of interest policy (class handout) and write 400 words about whether you agree/disagree with the policy as it related to political activity/involvement. Are there provisions you would remove; are there additional requirements you would add? Is the policy appropriate, fair? Due: Tuesday, Sept. 18, 5:00 p.m.

Weekly assignment: Watch the Trump-Putin news conference in Helsinki and write 400 words about whether you agree/disagree with Brian Stelter's tweet and why. Due: Friday, September 21, 5:00 p.m.

Press conference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slldr1eFUJ4

Stelter tweet: https://twitter.com/brianstelter/status/1018891511335964672

Readings:

- By Chris Cillizza**, "Why I don't vote,"** Washington Post. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/11/08/why-i-dont-vote/?utm_term=.4e442c7bd8e0

- By Josh Barro, **"I'm a journalist, and it's only fair that you should know whom I voted for,"** Business Insider. https://www.businessinsider.com/im-a-journalist-and-i-vote-2016-4

- By Kara Hackett, **"A Reporter's Take On 'Liberal Media Bias',"** Huffington Post. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/a-reporters-take-on-liberal-media-bias_us_591a5277e4b086d2d0d8d22b

- By Jonah Goldberg, **"Reporters' Political Biases Should Be Clear,"** National Review. https://www.nationalreview.com/2016/10/media-bias-liberal-reporters-hide-bias-claiming-they-are-independents/

WEEK 4: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Topic: Covering campaign events

Special guest speaker: Eugene Scott, political reporter, the Washington Post

Key points covered in class:

- • Reporting on candidate speeches, debates, meet and greets, other events/Pro tips
- • Discussion of POLITICO conflict of interest policy; Stelter's tweet from Week 3.

Mid-week assignment: Watch a video of a candidate speech, write a 350-word story. Gillibrand floor speech calling on Congress to protect Dreamers. Due Tuesday, Sept. 25, 5:00 p.m.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1zJqEzWXFs

Home assignment: "The Speech." Attend and report on a candidate speech/event/rally. Write a 650-word story. Due: Friday, October 5, 5:00 p.m. This assignment counts for 15 percent of your grade.

Readings:

- • Nicholas Riccardi, **"Colorado congressman booed as people demand action on guns,"** Associated Press. https://www.apnews.com/928e00e7669c40f4bea7632db280b7f8/Colorado-congressman-booed-as-people-demand-action-on-guns

WEEK 5: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Topic: "The Upset"/Toss up races

Special guest speaker: Jessica Proud, Republican political strategist, the November Team

Key points covered in class:

- • A look at Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's primary defeat of Rep. Joe Crowley in Queens/Comparison of the candidates' ads, messages, backgrounds/The district's demographics
- • Examination of the approximately 50 "toss up" races that will determine control of Congress/Factors that make a race a toss up/Cook Political Report
- • Case study: Rep. Carlos Curbelo, D-Fla.

Mid-week assignment: Research and write 400 words about NY's 19th congressional district where incumbent Rep. John Faso, a Republican, is facing a challenge from Antonio Delgado, a Democrat. Explain why this race is considered a toss up.

Readings:

- By Larry Sabato, **"Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball,"** University of Virginia Center for Politics. http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/

- By Bridget Read, **"28-Year-Old Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Might Just Be the Future of the Democratic Party,"** Vogue. https://www.vogue.com/article/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-interview-primary-election

WEEK 6: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Topic: The voters

Special guest speaker: Samantha Slater, former communications director for Sen. Michael Bennett and Rep. Steve Israel; current communications director for Columbia University World Project

Key points covered in class:

- Who votes in the midterms/What do they want, how do we know?/How are they influenced/Turnout
- The impact of endorsements, by other politicians, op-ed pages, celebrities.
- Interviewing voters/Technical aspects/Pitfalls

Home assignment: "The Debate." Cover a candidate debate. Write a 650-word story. This assignment counts for 15 percent of your course grade. Due: Friday, October 19, 5:00 p.m.

Readings:

- By Sophia Bollag, **"California 2018 midterm primary turnout highest in 2 decades,"** Associated Press. https://apnews.com/3b0ab5de3f3f450f9d96c08a524e713f/California-2018-midterm-primary-turnout-highest-in-2-decades

WEEK 7: OCTOBER 12

Topic: Fact checking politics

Special guest speaker: Evan Stavisky, Democratic consultant, the Parkside Group

Key points covered in class:

- Fact checking on the politics beat: Who does it, how does it work, criticism/Best politics fact-checking sites
- Best of "The Speech" assignment from Week 4.

Mid-week assignment: Write a short story off a candidate's ad. Due: Tuesday, October 16, 5:00 p.m. Ron DeSantis for Gov: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IbT9j30TtM

Readings:

- By David A. Graham, **"Why Fact-Checking Doesn't Faze Trump Fans,"** The Atlantic. https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/07/the-strange-effect-fact-checking-has-on-trump-supporters/532701/

WEEK 8: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Topic: Writing candidate profiles/How politicians (and political journalists) use social media

Key points covered in class:

- How to report and write candidates profiles/Must-include info/Assessing strengths and weaknesses/Pro tips
- How candidates use social media
- Case study: Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., and Republican Mike Braun
- How political journalists use social media

Mid-week assignment: Analyze Trump's use of Twitter since October 1 as it pertains to the midterms. Write 400 words on how he's using the platform – to praise/endorse? to attack? Are there any common themes? Is it effective? Due: Tuesday, October 23, 5:00 p.m.

Home assignment: "The Voters." In a NYC congressional district, interview 8-10 people who say they intend to vote on Nov. 6. Who are they voting for, why, what issues have motivated them, what do they think of each of the candidates. Write a 650-word story based on the interviews. This assignment counts for 15 percent of your course grade. Due: Friday, November 2, 5:00 p.m.

Readings:

- By Liam Stack, **"Republicans Had a Plan for Josh Hawley in Missouri. He's Working on It."** New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/13/us/politics/josh-hawley-missouri-senate.html

- By John J. Miller, **"Josh Hawley's Worthy Climb,"** National Review. https://www.nationalreview.com/magazine/2018/05/14/josh-hawley-senate-race-worthy-candidate-missouri/

- By Anthony Calabrese, **"Social Media's Impact on the Midterm Elections,"** Mashable. https://mashable.com/2010/11/09/social-media-elections-infographics/#tXW5W_dbV5q7

WEEK 9: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Topic: The Trump effect/Interviewing candidates

Key points covered in class:

- • Trump's involvement, impact on the midterms
- • Interviewing candidates/How to, avoiding pitfalls, technical aspects
- • Best of "The Debate" assignment from Week 6

Home assignment: Write a 450-word story off a candidate interview. (Link will be added closer to the class date.)

Readings:

- Chris Cillizza, **"The truly unprecedented challenge of covering Donald Trump,"** The Washington Post. https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/26/politics/donald-trump-media-challenge/index.html
- **"Interviewing politicians and public leaders: Advice from TIME's Molly Ball,"** JournalistsResource.org. https://journalistsresource.org/tip-sheets/reporting/interviewing-politicians-advice-molly-ball

- **"Evan Davis: How to interview politicians,"** BBC video. http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/en/articles/art20170620135849134

WEEK 10: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Topic: Election Day, the run up

Key points covered in class:

- • Last-minute trends/Latest polling/Update on key races/A "blue wave"?
- • Media coverage
- • Prognostications (to be fact checked in next week's class)

Home assignment: Watch the election night coverage and write your 5 takeaways. Due: Thursday, November 8, 5:00 p.m.

Readings:

- By Reuters Editor-in-Chief Steve Adler, **"9 guiding principles for covering Trump the Reuters way,"** Reuters. https://agency.reuters.com/en/insights/articles/articles-archive/9-guiding-principles-for-covering-trump-the-reuters-way.html

- By Ed Kilgore, **"The Midterms Are All About Trump,"** New York Magazine. http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/06/midterms-are-about-trump-more-than-parties-or-issues.html

- (Other links be added closer to the class date)

WEEK 11: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Topic: Election Day, the aftermath

Key points covered in class:

- What happened and why
- Consequences
- Media coverage
- Prognostications/Discussion of class takeaways from election night.
- Best of "The Voters" assignment from Week 8

Home assignment: "The Aftermath." This assignment counts for 15 percent of your grade. Due: Friday, November 30, 5:00 p.m.

Readings:

- (Links will be added closer to the class date)

WEEK 12: FRIDAY, NOVMEBER 16

Topic: Covering political scandal/Fake politics news/Russian, other efforts to interfere in the election

Special guest speaker: Charles Hurt, Fox News analyst; opinion editor, the Washington Times

Key points covered in class:

- Writing about political scandals
- Three case studies, how they were revealed, the consequences, the political media's role
- Fake politics news: What it is, political and other motivations, the harm/Political conspiracy theories
- Russian interference

Mid-week assignment: Trump and other critics say the media's anonymous sources don't exist, that they are made up. Write 400 words on what the pros/cons would be if the media ended its use of unnamed sources. Due: Tuesday, November 20, 5:00 p.m.

Readings:

- A.G. Sulzberger statement on fake news after meeting with Trump. https://www.nytco.com/statement-of-a-g-sulzberger-publisher-the-new-york-times-in-response-to-president-trumps-tweet-about-their-meeting/

  Trump's tweet: https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1023546197129224192

- By Nataly Pak and Matt Seyler, **"Trump calls 'fake news' media 'the real enemy of the people' over Putin summit,"** ABC News. https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-calls-fake-news-media-real-enemy-people/story?id=56687436

- By Ryan J. Foley, **"'Fake news' smear takes hold among politicians at all levels,"** Associated Press. https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/fake-news-smear-takes-hold-among-politicians-at-all-levels

SCHEDULING NOTE: WE SKIP A WEEK - WE DO NOT MEET FRIDAY, NOV. 23, BECAUSE OF THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. OUR NEXT CLASS IS FRIDAY, NOV. 30

<u>WEEK 13: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30</u>

Topic: Fundraising

Key points covered in class:

- Understanding campaign fundraising
- Case study: Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.
- FEC reports, PACs, super PACs, candidate committees
- Class discussion of mid-week assignment on anonymous sources from Week 12

Mid-week assignment: Find and write a 350-word story based on West Virginia GOP Senate candidate Patrick Morrissey's most recent campaign fundraising report. How much did he raise in the last period, how much cash on hand, any big donors? How does that compare to his opponent, Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin. Due: Tuesday, December 4, 5:00 p.m.

Readings:

- By Dan Merica and David Wright, **"Outside money pours into Ohio special election,"** CNN.com. https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/23/politics/ohio-special-election-heats-up/index.html

- By Tara Golshan, **"A warning sign for House Republicans in 2018: Democratic challengers are out-fundraising them,"** Vox. https://www.vox.com/2018/7/19/17587286/midterms-2018-house-republicans-fundraising-q2

- By Betsy Fischer Martin and Erin Fogarty Owen, **"Tim Russert: Loss and Lessons a decade later,"** NBCNews.com. https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/first-read/tim-russert-loss-lessons-decade-later-n882611

- By Maggie Haberman, **"Maggie Haberman: Why I Needed to Pull Back From Twitter,"** New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/20/sunday-review/maggie-haberman-twitter-donald-trump.html

WEEK 14: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Topic: "The Fourth Estate"/Look back, look ahead/Goodbyes

Key points covered in class:

- Watch segment from "The Fourth Estate," Showtime's documentary on The New York Times
- Discussion of "The Aftermath" assignment from Week 11
- The next election: A preview of the 2020 presidential contest.
- Endgame: Course closing remarks/Final housekeeping/Goodbyes…

-30-