

# 1. THE US PRIMARIES (Teaching material for stx / hf)

by

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## **THE US PRIMARIES - introduction**

The intention of this course is to provide the student with a basic introduction to the US presidential election, i.e. the election system, the political parties and the candidates. It should enable the students to study further the election process and gain a fuller understanding of the news coverage of the US presidential election.

The course is build around group work where the teacher is available for answering questions. The aim is that students enhance their

- ability to collect and critically analyse information
- read and analyse speeches (rhetoric)
- oral presentation and discussion skills
- writing skills
- work in groups

The course will conclude with a written assignment. The group work:

## **The election system**

### **Group 1: The Presidential Election – a time table**

Present and explain a time table of the main events in the presidential election – reaching from today until January 20 where the new president is sworn in. The presentation should include an introduction to:

- The Primaries
- The Electoral College
- The election

## **The political parties**

**Group 2: The Republican Party**

**Group 3: The Democratic Party**

The presentation should include an answer to the following questions:

- ✓ Mention five presidents from this party
- ✓ What does the party stand for?
- ✓ Which type of voters does the party attract?
- ✓ If you were an American, would you vote for this party? Why / why not?

## **The Candidates**

**Group 4: John McCain** - [www.johnmccain.com](http://www.johnmccain.com)

**Group 5: Mike Huckabee** - [www.mikehuckabee.com](http://www.mikehuckabee.com)

**Group 6: Hillary Clinton** - [www.hillaryclinton.com](http://www.hillaryclinton.com)

**Group 7: Barack Hussein Obama** - [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com)

**Each presentation of a candidate should include:**

- ✓ A summary of the candidate's personal history - use their campaign websites as starting point – see above!
- ✓ Compare the candidate (using <http://www.wmur.com/compare-candidates/index.html>) to the candidate from the *same* party on the following issues: immigration, Iraq, health care, abortion, gun control, one other issue of your choosing
- ✓ If you find a video or an interview on the candidate's website which explains a particular point well then feel free to use it as a part of your presentation. You must, however, be able to introduce it and explain precisely why this is relevant.

**Please note:**

- ✓ All groups **must** hand in one page in English. On this page the group is supposed to write down their findings. The paper will be copied and distributed to the class before the presentation.
- ✓ Each group has a maximum of eight (8) minutes available. Group 1 may need more time.
- ✓ Don't forget to share files and information within the group on a daily basis!