

# EXCITING NEWS!

## We are excited to announce a new Lifetime Learning Class The Politics of a Divided America

Starting on Wed, April 19th - May 9th/1:30 - 3:00/ Cost: \$40.00

### What Can We Learn from Abraham Lincoln About Our Own Divided Times?

American society has faced many moments of political and social division, and our present politics seems especially divided - so much so that some even use the phrase "a second civil war" to characterize the depth of our disagreements. Join us as we examine how one American political thinker, Abraham Lincoln, wrestled with the political divisions of his time, and what we can learn from his experience about resolving these divisions in our time.

### Why Doesn't Congress Work Well, and Can It Be Fixed?

Few institutions in American political life seem more dysfunctional than Congress. Many Americans express their unhappiness with Congress almost daily. But has Congress always been this troubled, and can its problems be fixed today? Join us as we discuss the nature of Congress and some of the challenges faced by those trying to fix a Congress that seems stymied by partisan politics.

### What Can We Tell Already About the 2024 Presidential Election?

The 2024 election is still more than a year in the future, but the news is already full of discussions about the candidates, the issues and the process. We'll talk about where things stand concerning the election, how the two major political parties are shaping the race, and where events are likely to take us as we approach the next presidential contest next November.

### Is Freedom of Speech in Danger of Disappearing?

The idea of free speech has always been a central part of American political life, from the passage of the First Amendment in 1789 to current political debates. Join us as we chat about how the concept of free speech has changed over time, why free speech seems to be under attack these days, and how we might begin to sort out legitimate concerns over speech from those aimed at silencing others.

**Presenter:** Dr. David Smailes is the Program Coordinator and Advisor for the Master of Public Administration program and an Associate Professor in the Political Science Dept. at Framingham State University. Dr. Smailes received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the UMass/ Amherst and his B.A. from the College of Wooster in Ohio.



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