

## Syllabus for the Winter 2022 Osher Course

“ The Biden Era—A One Year Report Card and Midterm Prognosis”

Tuesdays January 11 thru February 1 2022

10:00am to 12:30

Virtual

Study Leader

Maynard Goldman

We begin with a review of the activities of the Biden era during his first year in office. This is framed by the unfolding of the Big Lie which began before the November election and exploded with the events of January 6. Our objective will be to identify the key achievements during this time as well as those objectives that either failed and/or remain for action. Staff, Judicial, Cabinet and Ambassadorial appointments all play an important role. How successful was the President in putting people in place to assist him in his efforts?

The impact of Covid, the rise of inflation, and the strange effect of the job market all play an important role. And we can't forget America's role in foreign affairs including our withdrawal from Afghanistan, the massing of Russian troops along the Ukraine border and the Chinese rattling swords in and around the South China Sea. To what extent does the President have control over any of these or other factors or is he the captain of his ship being buffeted by winds from all sides just trying to ride out the storm?

Finally we spend the last two sessions reviewing the status of the 2022 midterms which are only about 300 days away....believe me, they will pass in what seems like a NY minute. Is it a given that the Democrats will lose the House and perhaps the Senate and what would that mean for the Biden Agenda and the future of the Democratic Party?

Week 1 January 11 2022

Greetings; Introductions ; Rules of Engagement

The Good the Bad and the Ugly...Lessons of History

1. Brief Summary of how we got here....Setting the Stage
2. The Year in Review...Big Wins and Losses
3. Key lessons for the Current Session

Week 2 January 18 2022

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington...Strategies for Success

1. Matters Domestic e.g. Covid; Infrastructure; Voting Rights; Budget and Debt status; Defense; Immigration; the Economy; Trade Policy; Build Back Better ; State of the Union; SCOTUS; the filibuster et al
2. Hangover from the Former Guy...The Big Lie; outstanding lawsuits; red and blue in America—is our Republic safe ?
3. Foreign Affairs: Relationships with key allies and foes: NATO; EU; China; North Korea; Iran ;Syria; Russia; Australia...just for Starters

Week 3 January 25 2022

The Manchurian Candidate....a Prologue to 2024

1. Redistricting ; the House and Senate ; key races;
  - a. Voting Rights and States legislative actions
2. Gubernatorial contests; State Legislatures; and other state- wide elections.

Week 4 February 1 2022

The American President...

1. A discussion around the Future of our Republic...where we are and where we are going

Due to the nature of our material we reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus as dictated by current events.