Focus of the Course:

From the days of FDR’s New Deal to the Election of Donald Trump, the Republican Party’s announced central concerns had been to constrain Executive overreach, to avoid and reduce budget deficits, and to hew to an originalist view of the Constitution. It has seemed that with the election of Donald Trump, all of that changed. However, the foundation for that change was laid some years ago, and the structure of today’s Republican Party was built upon it. That will be the focus of this course.

The syllabus is still under construction, as I wrestle with reducing it from thirteen lectures to eleven and try to anticipate the vicissitudes of the election and its aftermath. The syllabus will be sent a week before the first class, along with the first lecture, to all who take the course. (I strongly suggest that said lecture be read before the class.)