The past is unmistakably present in these, the final days of Campaign 2012. As President Obama and Governor Romney vie for votes, the arguments they articulate and the tactics they employ evoke a complicated American political past.

In "The 2012 Presidential Campaign in Historical Perspective," Liette Gidlow explores the dynamic interplay of past and present on today's critical issues. Why do many Americans believe that "government should be run like a business"? Why have ballot access issues – voter ID laws and challenges to early voting – become key sites of the contest? How do the leading candidates manipulate the "threat of China" to win support? How have the campaigns drawn upon party traditions to cultivate the support of women? Gidlow examines these and other issues as she places the 2012 campaign into historical context.