



Dotty Lynch

American University

Executive in Residence, School of Communication

OFFICE: SOC - School of Communication
Mary Graydon - 331F

CONTACT: dlynch@american.edu

DOTTY LYNCH is an Executive in Residence in the School of Communication and a political consultant for CBS News. The 2012 election marks Lynch's 22nd election cycle in congressional and presidential campaigns as a professional journalist and pollster. She was the Senior Political Editor of CBS News from 1985-2005 and is now an on-air political analyst for CBS Radio and a member of the CBS News Election Decision Desk.

Lynch began her career in politics and journalism at NBC News in 1968 and joined the polling firm of Cambridge Survey Research in 1972, where she worked on polling for the presidential campaigns of George McGovern and Jimmy Carter, and for many Senate and gubernatorial campaigns. In 1979-80 she worked as an in-house pollster for the presidential campaign of Senator Edward Kennedy. In the 1980s Lynch developed the concept of the gender gap and is one of the major authorities on the topic of women in politics. In 1983, she opened Lynch Research, a political polling firm where she was the first women pollster in a presidential campaign for the Gary Hart presidential race and the Mondale-Ferraro general election.

At CBS News, she covered 8 presidential campaigns, 12 national political conventions, 18 presidential and vice-presidential debates and 8 midterm elections. Lynch was the co-director of the Election and Survey Unit where she managed a team of researchers to provide information and analysis to all TV broadcasts (CBS Evening News, 60 Minutes, Face the Nation, 48 Hours, The Early Show), CBS Radio and wrote a weekly column, [Political Points](#) from 2001-2006 for [CBSnews.com](#). From 2002 to 2004 she was the editor of Washington Wrap, a daily political digest for [CBSnews.com](#). Lynch worked extensively on political broadcasts with CBS correspondents including Dan Rather, Lesley Stahl, Bob Schieffer, Ed Bradley, Charles Kuralt, Mike Wallace, Diane Sawyer in particular on their interviews with prominent American leaders including Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vice Presidents Al Gore and Dan Quayle and virtually all presidential candidates, major cabinet officials, and Congressional and political leaders since 1985.

She began teaching at American University in 2006 and in 2008 team-taught a class on the Presidential primaries that included a 5-day field trip to New Hampshire. The students attended rallies and press conferences, were in the filing center and spin room for the debates and produced mini-documentaries on various young people and their involvement

in the 2008 New Hampshire primary campaign. During the general election she taught a class on Politics, Polling and the Youth Vote the centerpiece of which was a poll of young voters conducted by AU students in conjunction with USA Today and Gallup organizations. She is also the director of American University's SOC/SPA MA in [Political Communication](#) program which launched in 2010.

Lynch was a fellow at the [JFK Institute of Politics](#) at Harvard University in the spring 2006 semester where she conducted a study group on the 2006 Midterm Elections. During the 2008 election she appeared on MSNBC, CNN International, WUSA, the BBC, Canadian, Danish and Finnish TV as well as doing close to 1,000 interviews on CBS Radio. At the national party conventions in Denver and Minneapolis she was a consultant to The Obesity Society on forums on "*What The Next President Should Do About Obesity*," which included Obama Domestic Policy chief Melody Barnes, Rep. John Conyers, former Governor Mike Huckabee and former HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson. She appeared on numerous panels at American University including SOC's [The American Forum](#) and the Center for Presidential and Congressional Studies' post Super-Tuesday, convention and post-election panels and the Kay Spiritual Life panel on Civility in Politics. She is also an active member of the Board of the [National Women's Editorial Forum](#) and co-produced a workshop "*Ready for Prime Time*" to prepare women elected officials, journalists and political scientists for media appearances on political topics. In 2005 she produced a panel for Harvard's Shorenstein Center on the [Press, Politics, and Public Policy on Women](#) on the Op-Ed page.

In 2008 Lynch was a contributor to the [Observatory Group](#), a political and economic newsletter and [Women on the Web](#) where she does polling analysis with co-founder Lesley Stahl. In 2009 Lynch wrote "How the Media Covered the 2008 Elections: The Role of Earned Media" for Thurber and Nelson's *Campaigns and Elections American Style*, Westview Publications. In 2010 she wrote political analysis for [TheFiscalTimes.com](#). In addition to CBS News she has appeared on C-SPAN, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, MSNBC, CNN, the BBC, and NPR.