

THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

Spring 2008

POLS 384.001

American Presidency

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:00-1:50 pm

Maybank Hall Room 316

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INTRODUCTION

Democracy is a participatory sport.

Unlike the Super Bowl or the Olympics, however, this "game" will have a direct impact on your life, your health and your income for years to come. War and peace really do hang in the balance. AMERICANS YOUR AGE ARE FIGHTING AND DYING AROUND THE GLOBE AT THIS MOMENT AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. This "game" is for keeps.

The key player in the game of American Politics is the President of the United States. Over the past two centuries that office has taken on power and authority far beyond the imagination--or the intent--of the Founding Fathers. By the end of World War II and the dawn of the nuclear age, the President had become the most powerful person in the history of mankind. He can use that vast power for either good or ill. President Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb on two major Japanese cities is still intensely debated today while his Redevelopment Plan for Western Europe (The Marshall Plan) is widely recognized as one of the greatest international programs ever enacted.

Despite his stature, the President is not omnipotent, as each human being who has held that office has so painfully discovered. President Washington's second term was the most unhappy period of his life and President Wilson left office a broken man in body and in spirit. President Johnson was driven from office in the wake of Vietnam and President Nixon was forced to resign as a result of Watergate.

Congress can, and often does wrestle control of government from errant or weak Presidents as happened throughout most of the 19th Century. In more recent times, President Carter became nearly incapacitated as the Iran Hostage Crisis dragged on and President Clinton forfeited his opportunity to leave a legacy in the wake of the Lewinski scandal and Impeachment. The impact of the War on Terrorism on President George W. Bush and his legacy will be one of the primary topics of this course.

President Jefferson firmly believed that an informed citizenry was essential to the survival of a democracy. That is the goal of this course. The stakes are too high to remain ignorant.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY: An Intellectual History
Forrest McDonald
University Press of Kansas

DEBATING THE PRESIDENCY
Richard J. Ellis & Michael Nelson
Congressional Quarterly Press

COURSE ORIENTATION

This course will consist of five major components in addition to class lectures:

- Daily Quizzes
- Three Tests
- A Research Paper on The Invasion of Iraq and the War on Terrorism
- A Campaign Report on the 2008 South Carolina Presidential Primaries
- Six Debates on specific aspects of the presidency

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Regular class attendance and careful preparation for each class are required. Students must read the assigned chapter prior to each class. As an "incentive," most classes will begin with a 5 minute quiz based exclusively on that chapter.

Students must perform the assignments outlined in this syllabus and submit the required reports **ON TIME**.

Since teachers are "academic coaches," students are expected to show up for class just as athletes are expected to show up for practice. Attendance will be taken. **ONLY THREE ABSENCES WILL BE EXCUSED; THEREAFTER, EACH ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF ONE POINT FROM THE STUDENT'S FINAL GRADE.**

If absent, a Student is still responsible for everything covered during that class. Small study groups and good class notes are invaluable. No "extra credit" work will be offered. Students should concentrate on doing their best on the assignments outlined in this syllabus.

Students must demonstrate respect for the teacher and their fellow classmates. Disturbances of any kind (e.g., private conversations, cell phones, text messaging, etc.) will not be permitted. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, it will be recorded as an absence.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If a student requires any type of SNAP accommodations, please make the appropriate notifications and arrangements with the Center for Students with Disabilities during the first week of classes. Alternatively, if a student has a physical impairment of any kind that will require special arrangements for exams or papers--or, if a student must travel due to membership in any approved athletic, club or organizational program--please notify the teacher during the first week of classes. The information will be kept confidential.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The regular office hour for this course will be on Friday, between 3:00 - 4:00 pm or any time by appointment. THE FRIDAY OFFICE HOUR WILL BE AT THE COFFEE SHOP AT OUR NEW LIBRARY. Students may request a meeting at another time or place by using my PERSONAL email (zebracove@aol.com) or my cell phone (843-822-3254).

My PERSONAL email will be checked daily during the semester: zebracove@aol.com. Please use my personal email address only. Do NOT use my edisto account.

Questions, comments or concerns pertaining to this course may also be placed via my cell phone (843-822-3254) between the hours of 10 am - Midnight, seven days a week. Calls placed before 10 am will earn a grade of "X."

DAILY QUIZZES...20%

The Daily Quiz will focus exclusively on that day's reading assignment. It will be given at the start of each class at 1:00 pm sharp and will consist of 10 objective questions (10 points each). At the end of the semester, the two lowest quiz grades will be eliminated and the remaining quiz grades will be averaged. That average will represent 20% of the student's final grade for the Course.

If a student is absent from class or arrives after the quiz period has ended, the quiz grade for that class will be zero. There will be no make-up quizzes.

TESTS...30%

There will be a total of three Tests throughout the semester. Each Test will be comprehensive (i.e., it will cover EVERYTHING read, reviewed or discussed during that period of the Course) and will consist of 25 objective questions (2 points each) and five essay questions (10 points each) plus a five point bonus question. Each Test will be one full class period and will begin at 1:00 pm sharp.

A brief review of the Test will be conducted at the start of the next class. The next phase of the Course will begin at the completion of the Test and review. Each Test will cover only the material contained in that phase of the course. Each Test will count for 10% of the final grade. Combined, the three Tests will represent 30% of the final grade for the course.

If a student is absent from class on Test day, that Test must be made up by appointment at the earliest opportunity and a 10 point penalty will be applied to the Test grade.

RESEARCH PAPER...40%

Each student will prepare a ten page, double-spaced typed research paper on the following topic: Was President Bush's decision to invade Iraq an appropriate, legal and effective strategy in the War on Terrorism?

This Paper must include a Title Page, Endnotes and Bibliography. The conclusions must be your own, but they must be based on the facts, including the hindsight of history. This Paper must be divided into the following segments:

- Two Full pages...an overview of the President's rationale for invading Iraq.
- Two Full pages...was the invasion of Iraq an appropriate response to the situation ?
- Two Full pages...was the invasion of Iraq legal...did it meet the requirements of the US Constitution and of International Law ?
- Two Full pages...was the invasion of Iraq effective in combating Terrorism and the forces that actually attacked the United States on September 11, 2001 ?
- One Full page...has the human and financial cost of the invasion of Iraq been worth the price that the United States continues to pay ?
- One Full page...if the draft was reinstated for men and women, would YOU fight in Iraq ?

This Research Paper is due on Wednesday, April 9 at 1:00 pm.

Five points will be subtracted from the Research Paper grade for each day it is late. The final grade for the Research Paper will represent 40% of the student's final grade for the Course.

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN REPORT...10%

The South Carolina presidential primaries will be critical in the selection of the party nominees in this year's election. Your assignment is to select one of the presidential candidates and IMMEDIATELY contact that person's SC campaign. By the second class of this semester ((Friday, January 11) you must submit the name of the candidate that you intend to work for and the location or contact information of that candidate's headquarters.

You must then devote a minimum of three hours of volunteer time to your candidate between now and the end of the SC Primary (for Republicans, that date is Saturday, January 19...for Democrats, that date is Saturday, January 26). After the Primary is over, you must prepare a three page Report devoting one FULL page to answering each of the following questions:

- 1) Why did you select that particular presidential candidate ?
- 2) What were your specific assignments and responsibilities and to whom did your report ?
- 3) What surprised you the most about the campaign and the process itself ?

This Report must be typed, double-spaced and must include a Title Page.

This PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN REPORT is due on Friday, February 15 at 1:00 pm. Five points will be subtracted from the Report grade for each day it is late. The PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN REPORT will represent 10% of the student's final grade.

IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of Class	January 9
Daily Quizzes	Most classes
Tests	February 8 March 21 April 25
Report on the Invasion of Iraq	April 9 at 1:00 pm
Spring Break	March 2-8
Selection of Presidential Campaign Presidential Campaign Report	January 11 at 1:00 pm February 15 at 1:00 pm
2008 Commencement	Saturday, May 10

GRADES

Grades are based on a straight scale:

A = 93 - 100	C = 73 - 77
A- = 90 - 92	C- = 70 - 72
B+ = 88 - 89	D+ = 68 - 69
B = 83 - 87	D = 63 - 67
B- = 80 - 82	D- = 60 - 62
C+ = 78 - 79	F = 59 and below

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Personal integrity is extremely important in college and throughout life.

When you enrolled in The College of Charleston, you signed an Honor Code. You are expected to live up to that code. It is the only way for you to maintain the integrity and value of your degree.

If you cheat on an exam or plagiarize any portion of your reports, you will fail this course and your case will be turned over to the Honor Board for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions or are unsure what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, ASK. Ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Wednesday, January 9

- Sample Quiz
- Introduction to the Course
- Overview of assignments
- Review NH Presidential Primary Results

Friday, January 11

- The US Constitution: Article II
- Assignment Due:
2008 SC Presidential Primary Campaign Plan

PART ONE: ROOTS

Week 2

Monday, January 14

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapters 1 & 2: Introduction & The Great Legal Commentators (1-37)

Wednesday, January 16

- Daily Quiz
- The First American Republic 1774-1789

Friday, January 18

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Washington, Adams, Jefferson
- Preview: SC Republican Presidential Primary

Week 3

Monday, January 21

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- No Class

Wednesday, January 23

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 3: Political Philosophers (38-66)

Friday, January 25

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Madison, Monroe, J. Q. Adams
- Preview: SC Democratic Presidential Primary

Week 4

Monday, January 28

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 4: The Lessons of History (67-97)

Wednesday, January 30

- Daily Quiz
- Resolved: Great Presidents are Agents of Democratic Change (179-197)
- Class Debate

Friday, February 1

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Jackson, VanBuren, W. H. Harrison

Week 5

Monday, February 4

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 5: The Colonial Experience (98-124)

Wednesday, February 6

- Review Super Tuesday
Presidential Primary Results

Friday, February 8

- Test #1
- Review Test

Week 6

Monday, February 11

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 6: Revolutionary Experience (125-153)

Wednesday, February 13

- Daily Quiz
- Resolved: The President should be elected directly by the People (30-44)
- Class Debate

Friday, February 15

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore
- Assignment Due: Presidential Campaign Report

PART TWO: ESTABLISHMENT

Week 7

Monday, February 18

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 7: The Convention (157-181)

Wednesday, February 20

- WHEN THE SYSTEM FAILS:
- President Lyndon Johnson's Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (which he used as authorization for the Vietnam War)

Friday, February 22

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Pierce, Buchanan, Lincoln

Week 8

Monday, February 25

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 8: Ratification (182-208)

Wednesday, February 27

- Daily Quiz
- Resolved: The Framers of the Constitution would approve of the modern Presidency (1-13)
- Class Debate

Friday, February 29

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- A. Johnson, Grant, Hayes

Week 9

Monday, March 3

- SPRING BREAK
- No Class

Wednesday, March 5

- SPRING BREAK
- No Class

Friday, March 7

- SPRING BREAK
- No Class

Week 10

Monday, March 10

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 9: Washington Administration (209-244)

Wednesday, March 12

- Daily Quiz
- Resolved: A broad Executive Privilege is essential to the successful functioning of the presidency (125-140)
- Class Debate

Friday, March 14

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland

Week 11

Monday, March 17

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 10: The Jeffersonians (254-274)

Wednesday, March 19

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- B. Harrison, McKinley, T. Roosevelt

Friday, March 21

- Test #2
- Review Test

PART THREE: EVOLUTION

Week 12

Monday, March 24

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 11: The President & The Law (277-314)

Wednesday, March 26

- WHEN THE SYSTEM WORKS.
- United States v. Nixon
The 1974 Supreme Court decision which forced President Nixon to turn over his secret White House tapes & led to his resignation

Friday, March 28

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Taft, Wilson, Harding

Week 13

Monday, March 31

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 12: President & Administration (315-345)

Wednesday, April 2

- Resolved: The President is a more authentic representative of the American People than is Congress (75-91)
- Class Debate

Friday, April 4

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Coolidge, Hoover, F. Roosevelt

Week 14

Monday, April 7

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 13: President & Legislation (346-381)

Wednesday, April 9

- Assignment Due:
Report on President Bush's Invasion of Iraq
- Class Discussion

Friday, April 11

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy

Week 15

Monday, April 14

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 14: President & Foreign Affairs (382-424)

Wednesday, April 16

- Daily Quiz
- Resolved: Presidents have usurped the war power that rightfully belongs to Congress (92-109)
- Class Debate

Friday, April 18

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- L. Johnson, Nixon, Carter

Week 16

Monday, April 21

- Daily Quiz
- THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
- Chapter 15: Images & Elections (425-458)

Wednesday, April 23

- Presidential Lives & Legacies
- Reagan, G. H. Bush, Clinton

Friday, April 25
12:00 pm

- Final Exam (Test #3)

The Writing Lab

FREE Individual Help!

TRAINED CONSULTANTS
can assist with
papers in ALL courses!

Brainstorm Topics
Form a Thesis
Use MLA, APA, and Turabian
Use Correct Grammar
Write a Coherent Paper
Write personal essays for Graduate School,
Résumés, Job Applications, and more!

College of Charleston
Addlestone Library - 1st floor
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 9pm
Friday: 9am - 12noon
Summer Hours Vary