

SEMINAR – AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AT WAR

Political Science 329

Section 24646

Fall 2007 Semester

Classroom: Behavioral Sciences Building, Room 1171

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am to 12:15pm

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

American Presidents at War Seminar (POLS 329) analyzes the crucial role, importance and implications of the United States President and his role in United States foreign policy-making, specifically in war-time. Through discussion of past and present major international conflicts and policy decisions of former Presidents of the United States, current war-time policies of the President of the United States will be examined.

PREREQUISITE(S):

POLS 101 and POLS 281.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook (Note - you must purchase the textbook, available at the UIC Student Bookstore [750 South Halsted], by the second week of class):

Strunk, William and White, E.B. The Elements of Style. Fourth Edition. Massachusetts: AB Longman 2000. (ISBN 0-205-30902-X).

Additional Course Materials will be distributed in advance of each class session as required.

Daily Newspapers and other sources

While this is not a current events course, you need to keep up with news about foreign policy to understand examples we will discuss in class. Also, I will incorporate news reports and analyses as application questions in your final examination. I suggest that you regularly read the New York Times or the international section of the Financial Times.

GRADING POLICY:

Class participation and the research report and presentation will test students' mastery of the course objectives according to the following performance standards:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage Range</u>	<u>Standard of Review</u>
A	90-100	Excellent recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: no errors of fact <u>plus</u> inferences and interpretations that are solidly grounded in assigned readings and reflect an awareness of complexity.
B	80-89	Superior recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: a few errors of fact <u>plus</u> inferences and interpretations that are somewhat grounded in assigned readings, with a few significant omissions or misinterpretations, and some appreciation of complexity.
C	70-79	Average recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: a fair number of errors of fact <u>plus</u> a mixture of warranted and unwarranted, or correct and incorrect, inferences and interpretations of assigned readings along with minimal appreciation of complexity.
D	60-69	Below average recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: errors of fact outnumber correct responses, <u>plus</u> more unwarranted than warranted and more incorrect than correct inferences and interpretations, and a lack of appreciation of complexity.
F	< 60	Extremely poor recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: serious errors of fact, predominance of unwarranted and incorrect inferences and interpretations, and severe lack of appreciation of complexity.

COMPONENTS OF YOUR GRADE:

Your grade will be based on writing tasks that measure reading comprehension, analytical and critical thinking skills according to the performance standards described above. Your grade will have two components:

1. Class Participation and Attendance - **30%**
2. Research Report and Presentation - **70%**

DEADLINES AND PENALTIES FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

To receive full credit, written assignments must be delivered to the Instructor on the date due. Assignments handed in any day after the due date will have twenty (20) points deducted from the earned grade. If you know you are going to miss a class with a due date, you may hand in your assignment early or you may E-mail the assignment to me or fax the assignment to me at the fax number noted above, on the due date prior to the time class is to commence (the facsimile copy will be automatically coded with the time and date the materials were delivered and the point deductions discussed above will apply equally to faxed and emailed materials).

ATTENDANCE, CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to attend all classes; participation is expected and encouraged. Experience shows that there is a direct relationship between attendance and performance in this course. To comprehend the reading material for this course and to benefit from what we do in class, you must read assigned readings before coming to each class session.

IMPORTANT NOTE: IN ADDITION, IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND ANY CLASS SESSION, A REQUIRED WRITTEN ELEMENT WILL BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THAT MISSED CLASS SESSION. FAILURE TO TIMELY COMPLETE THE WRITTEN ELEMENT WILL RESULT IN EXPONENTIAL DOUBLING OF THE LENGTH OF THE REQUIRED WRITTEN SUBSTITUTE ASSIGNMENT.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO POLICIES:

1. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.** UIC prohibits the following conduct: all forms of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, forgery, alteration, or fraudulent use of University documents, instruments or identification. For more information, please consult your student handbook.
2. **THE WRITING CENTER.** The UIC Writing Center, located at 100 Douglas Hall, offers weekly skills workshops, individual writing assistance, tutorial assistance, and reading skills improvement training. You are encouraged to use the UIC Writing Center as a resource.
3. **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.** Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (“ODS”). Please contact ODS at (312) 413-2183 (voice) or (312) 413-0123 (TTY).
4. THIS COURSE IS INTENDED FOR GENERAL EDUCATION PURPOSES ONLY. THE INFORMATION IS NOT INTENDED TO BE LEGAL ADVICE, NOR SHOULD IT BE USED AS SUCH.

DAILY COURSE SCHEDULE

- August 28, 2007 -** Introduction to the course; Review of Syllabus.
- August 30, 2007 -** Iraq and Presidential Decisions [Bush I, Clinton, Bush II] (assignment).
- September 4, 2007 -** Iraq and Presidential Decisions [Bush I, Clinton, Bush II] (discussion).
- September 6, 2007 -** The USA PATRIOT Act and Expansion of the President’s Powers (assignment).
- September 11, 2007 -** The USA PATRIOT Act and Expansion of the President’s Powers (assignment).
- September 13, 2007 -** The USA PATRIOT Act and Expansion of the President’s Powers (trial).
Topics assigned for Research Report and Presentation.
- September 18, 2007 -** **LIBRARY RESEARCH DAY - NO CLASS TODAY.**
Thesis Statement Emailed to Professor by Midnight.
- September 20, 2007 -** Yoga with the UN (assignment).
- September 25, 2007 -** Yoga with the UN (discussion).
- September 27, 2007 -** The Vietnam Experience (video and assignment).
- October 2, 2007 -** The Vietnam Experience (discussion).
- October 4, 2007 -** North Korea and the United States [Bush vs. Clinton] (assignment).
- October 9, 2007 -** North Korea and the United States [Bush vs. Clinton] (discussion).
- October 11, 2007 -** White House Guest List and Dinner Party (assignment).
- October 16, 2007 -** **NO CLASS TODAY – RESEARCH PAPER PREPARATION.**

- October 18, 2007 - **NO CLASS TODAY – RESEARCH PAPER PREPARATION.**
- October 23, 2007 - White House Guest List and Dinner Party (discussion).
- October 25, 2007 - Foreign Policy Deathmatch (assignment).
- October 30, 2007 - Foreign Policy Deathmatch (discussion).
- November 1, 2007 - Discussion of Student Research Reports and Presentations.
- November 6, 2007 - Intelligence – Does our President Need It? How Does He Get It? (assignment).
- November 8, 2007 - Intelligence – Does our President Need It? How Does He Get It? (discussion - with Guest Speaker from the State Department and Office of Naval Intelligence).
- November 13, 2007 - *Student Research Reports and Presentations (as assigned)*
- November 15, 2007 - *Student Research Reports and Presentations (as assigned)*
- November 20, 2007 - *Student Research Reports and Presentations (as assigned)*
- November 22, 2007 - **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY -- NO CLASS TODAY**
- November 27, 2007 - *Student Research Reports and Presentations (as assigned)*
- November 29, 2007 - *Student Research Reports and Presentations (as assigned)*
- December 4, 2007 - *Student Research Reports and Presentations (as assigned)*
- December 6, 2007 - *Student Research Reports and Presentations (as assigned)*
CONCLUSION: Comparison of Past Presidents – What did they do right?

NOTE: *This is a tentative outline of the daily course schedule; the Instructor reserves the right to change this Daily Course Schedule as necessary to meet course objectives.*