

University of Illinois at Chicago
Political Science 227
Elections and Voting

Summer Term, 2004

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We will investigate the nature of Presidential elections in the United States of America. The course will address four questions:

- What does the election process look like?
- Who runs for the Office?
- Who votes, and why?
- What are the prospects for the election due in November of this year?

We will address the above questions through a series of research projects, and these research projects will provide the means for assessing each student's grade for this course. The textbooks for this course are:

- Wayne, *The Road to the White House 2004*;
- White and Shea, *New Party Politics*; and
- Bardes and Oldendick, *Public Opinion (2nd Edition)*.

The reading list and assignments will be distributed separately.

Any student with special instructional needs should consult with me at the beginning of the course.

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Project List
Revised

1. Presidential Campaigns from 1900 to the Present
 - A. Two separate campaigns, presented to the class. (10 points each)
 - B. Individual Portfolio
Based on the information presented by your classmates, you will construct a summary of the history of presidential campaigns in the U.S. This summary is neither a paper, nor a report, but more a set of tables summarizing from one or more perspectives the past twenty-five presidential campaigns. (15 points)
2. Presidential candidates
 - A. Facts about the preliminary and final candidates for your assigned elections. (5 points each campaign)
 - B. Individual Portfolio
Based on the information obtained by your classmates, you will construct a summary of the history of presidential candidates in the U.S. This summary is neither a paper, nor a report, but more a set of tables summarizing from one or more perspectives the candidates engaged in the past twenty-five presidential campaigns. (5 points)
3. Feeling Thermometer Survey
 - A. Obtaining and reporting weekly survey responses. (10 points)
 - B. Individual Portfolio
Based on the results we obtain, you will present a summary report of the observed public opinion of the three presumptive presidential candidates for 2004. (5 points)
4. Original opinion survey. (15 points)
5. Reading /discussion assignments. (3 at 6.6 points each)