

Graduate Seminar in Readings and Research in American Politics PS: 5530-101 – Fall 2007  
**Thursday 6:00 – 9:00 PM**  
Dr. Phillip J. Ardoin

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**E-mail:** [ardoinpj@appstate.edu](mailto:ardoinpj@appstate.edu)

**Phone:** 262-7187

**Room:** 2059 Old Belk Library Classroom Bldg

**Website:** <http://www1.appstate.edu/~ardoinpj/>

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday:** 11-11:50

**Tuesday:** 9:30-11:50

**Wednesday:** 11-11:50

**Thursday:** 9:30-12:00 & 5-6:00

If the above posted office hours are not convenient for you due to your work or class schedule, please e-mail or simply see me before or after class to schedule an alternative time. I DO NOT MIND scheduling a meeting at an alternate time.

**VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS:** Also, feel free to e-mail me. I check my e-mail regularly throughout the day and evening. It gives you instant access to me at hours not normally considered office hours. It also allows me to respond to questions about assignments, tests and other class material in an efficient and timely manner.

**MY FALL 2007 CLASS SCHEDULE:**

MWF 9-9:50 American National Government and Politics

MW 2-3:15 Presidency and Executive Branch

Th 6-9:00 Graduate Readings and Research in American Politics

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this course is to provide you with an understanding of the American Political Process with a focus on the Presidency. The first half of the semester will examine the election process. The second half of the semester will focus on the office and activities of the Presidency and the natural tension between the President and Congress. This is a graduate course and therefore a critical component of the course is to provide you with a general introduction to contemporary research regarding the topics of the course.

**COURSE TEXT BOOKS:**

- I. *The Road to the White House 2004: The Politics of Presidential Elections*, by Stephen J. Wayne
- II. *Governing by Campaigning: The Politics of the Bush Presidency* by George C. Edwards III
- III. *On Deaf Ears: The Limits of the Bully Pulpit* by George C. Edwards III
- IV. *Cultural War: The Myth of a Polarized America* by Morris P. Fiorina et al
- V. *A Divider not a Uniter* by Gary C. Jacobson
- VI. *The Presidential Dilemma: Leadership in the American System* by Michael A. Genovese
- VII. *Stalemate: Causes and Consequences of Legislative Gridlock* by Sarah Binder
- VIII. *A CD-ROM with additional readings will also be provided to each of you with files in PDF format.*

**Required Readings:** Each week you will be responsible for reading the assigned readings. You will also be required to find at least 1 additional article from a scholarly journal related to the weeks readings.

**GRADING:** Your grade in this course will be calculated as follows:

- Class Participation 25%
- Discussion Leader: 5%
- Reaction Papers: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%

**AS PER THE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE...**

Students attending Appalachian State University agree to abide by the following code:

- Students will not lie, cheat, or steal to gain academic advantage.
- Students will oppose every instance of academic dishonesty.
- Students shall agree to abide by the Academic Integrity Code when submitting the admission application.

**EXAMS:** – There will be 2 exams in this course. The first (midterm) exam will be an in-class exam which will cover the readings on American elections. The second (Final) exam will be a take home exam which will cover ALL of the material discussed in class and covered in the assigned readings over the entire semester. Both exams will follow an essay format, providing you with an opportunity to display your understanding of the covered material and your ability to evaluate and summarizing the major concepts/issues which were examined throughout the course.

**REACTION PAPERS:** You are required to write 3 reaction papers during the first half of the semester and 3 reaction papers during the second half of the semester. The purpose of these papers is to have you critically address one or more of the major concepts put forward in the assigned readings of the week. I do not want a summary of the readings, I want a CRITICAL ANALYSIS. The reaction papers should be 3-5 pages in length. They must be typed (10-12 pt font) and you must use a standard citing/bibliography format. The reaction paper is due at the beginning of class – no excuses. I urge you not to wait until the last 3 weeks of each half of the semester to write your 3 reaction papers. If you wait until the last 3 weeks and are unable to submit a paper at the start of a class, you will simply receive a zero for the paper.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** This is a graduate seminar and therefore I expect all of you to ACTIVELY participate in the weekly class discussions. If you do not regularly contribute to our weekly class discussions, you will not pass this class. Passive participation is unacceptable. Please note, participation is worth 25% of your final grade.

**DISCUSSION LEADER:** Each person will select a week to lead the discussion of a section/topic of the week's assigned readings. In order to prepare for being a discussion leader, you should meet with me during the week prior to the class discussion you are leading. This meeting will allow us to confer regarding which issue/topic you will be responsible for leading and the major concepts/issues which you will address regarding this topic.

Important Dates	
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Oct 19</b>
Fall Break	Oct 11-12
Thanksgiving Break	Nov 21-23
Last Day of Classes	Dec 4
Reading Day	Dec 5
<b>Comprehensive Final Exam</b>	<b>Dec 6</b>

Grading Scale			
<b>A</b>	94-100	<b>C</b>	74-76
<b>A-</b>	90-93	<b>C-</b>	70-73
<b>B+</b>	87-89	<b>D+</b>	67-69
<b>B</b>	84-86	<b>D</b>	64-66
<b>B-</b>	80-83	<b>D-</b>	60-63
<b>C+</b>	77-79	<b>F</b>	Below 60

Week	Topic
24-Aug	Introductions and Discussion of Class Expectations
31-Aug	Presidential Elections I – Historical View/ Electoral College System
7-Sep	Presidential Elections II – The Nomination/The Political Environment and Voting
14-Sep	Presidential Elections III – Campaigns/Debates
21 - Sep	Presidential Elections IV – The 2004 Presidential Election
28-Sep	Governing by Campaigning: The Politics of the Bush Presidency
5-Oct	Midterm Exam
12-Oct	Fall Break
19-Oct	The Limits of the Bully Pulpit
26-Oct	The Presidential Dilemma: Leading a Broken System
2-Nov	Bush and Polarized Politics
9-Nov	Polarized Politics: Congress and the President in a Partisan Era
16-Nov	The Political/Cultural Divide: Myth or Reality?
23-Nov	Thanksgiving Break
30-Nov	Stalemate: Causes and Consequences of Legislative Gridlock
6-Dec	FINAL EXAM

Week Topic and Readings

**24-Aug Introductions and Discussion of Class Expectations**

**31-Aug Presidential Elections I – Historical View/Electoral College**

- (Chapters 1-3) Wayne, Stephen J. 2004. *The Road to the White House, 2004: The Politics of Presidential Elections*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth-Thomson Learning.
- Loomis, Burdett and Byron E. Shafer (2006) "Resolved, The President Should be elected directly by the people." in *Debating the Presidency* edited by Richard J. Ellis and Michael Nelson.
- Ardoin, Phillip J., and Bryan M. Parsons. 2007. "Partisan Bias in the Electoral College: Cheap States and Wasted Votes1." *Politics & Policy* 35 (2):342-64.
- Turner, Robert C. 2005. "The Contemporary Presidency: Do Nebraska and Maine Have the Right Idea? The Political and Partisan Implications of the District System." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 35 (1):116-37.
- Todd Estes (2006) "Where the Votes Are: The Electoral Geography of the Coming Democratic Majority," *The Forum*: Vol. 3: Iss. 4, Article 4.
- Shugart, Matthew Soberg. 2004. "Elections: The American Process of Selecting a President: A Comparative Perspective." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 34 (3):632-55.

**7 – Sep Presidential Elections II – The Nomination / The Political Environment and Voting**

- (Chapters 4-5) Wayne, Stephen J. 2004. *The Road to the White House, 2004: The Politics of Presidential Elections*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth-Thomson Learning.
- Kaufman, K. M., J. G. Gimpel, et al. (2003). "A Promise Fulfilled? Open Primaries and Representation." *The Journal of Politics* 65(2): 457-476.
- Cline, A. R. (2006). "Primary Instability Paradox: The Ethics of Media Coverage in Presidential Nominations." *The Forum* 3(4).
- Cochran, John (2007) "Puzzling Over Early Primaries" *CQ Weekly* June 4, 2007 p1670.
- Panagopoulos, Costas, and Daniel Bergman. 2006. Contribution and Contributors in the 2004 Presidential Election Cycle. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36 (2):155-171.
- Gimpel, J. G., F. E. Lee, et al. (2006). "The Political Geography of Campaign Contributions in American Politics." *The Journal of Politics* 68(3): 626-639.
- David, W. Nickerson. 2006. Volunteer Phone Calls Can Increase Turnout: Evidence From Eight Field Experiments. *American Politics Research* 34 (3):271-292.
- Gomez, Brad T., Thomas G. Hansford, and George A. Krause. 2007. "The Republicans Should Pray for Rain: Weather, Turnout, and Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections." *The Journal of Politics* 69 (3):649-63.
- Stanley, H. W. and R. G. Niemi (2006). "Partisanship, Party Coalitions, and Group Support, 1952-2004." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36(2): 172-188.
- McKee, Seth C. (2007) "Rural Voters in Presidential elections, 1992-2004" *The Forum*, Volume 5 Issue 2, Article 2.

**14-Sep Presidential Elections III – Campaigns/Debates**

- (Chapters 6-9) Wayne, Stephen J. 2004. *The Road to the White House, 2004: The Politics of Presidential Elections*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth-Thomson Learning.
- Overby, L. Marvin, and Barth Jay. 2006. Radio Advertising in American Political Campaigns: The Persistence, Importance, and Effects of Narrowcasting. *American Politics Research* 34 (4):451-478.
- How to Sell a Candidate to a Porsche-Driving, Leno-Loving Nascar Fan, by Katharine Q. Seelye, *New York Times*, December 7th, 2004.
- Damore, D. F. (2002). "Candidate Strategy and the Decision to Go Negative." *Political Research Quarterly* 55(3): 669-685.
- Benoit, W. L. and G. J. Hansen (2004). "Presidential Debate Watching, Issue Knowledge, Character Evaluation, and Vote Choice." *Human Communication Research* 30(1): 121-144.
- Kenski, K. and K. H. Jamieson (2006). "Issue Knowledge and Perceptions of Agreement in the 2004 Presidential General Election." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36(2): 243-259.
- WEEKLY READINGS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.....

- Fridkin, Kim L., Patrick J. Kenney, Sarah Allen Gershon, Karen Shafer, and Gina Serignese Woodall. 2007. "Capturing the Power of a Campaign Event: The 2004 Presidential Debate in Tempe." *The Journal of Politics* 69 (3):770-85.
- Baumgartner, Jody and Jonathan S. Morris (2006), "The Daily Show Effect: Candidate Evaluations, Efficacy and American Youth," *American Politics Research*, 23 (2): 341-367.

**21-Sep Presidential Elections IV – The 2004 Presidential Election**

- Abramowitz, A. I. and W. J. Stone (2006). "The Bush Effect: Polarization, Turnout, and Activism in the 2004 Presidential Election." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36(2): 141-153.
- Abramowitz, A. I. (2004). "Terrorism, Gay Marriage, and Incumbency: Explaining the Republican Victory in the 2004 Presidential Election." *The Forum* 2(4).
- Burden, B. C. (2004). "An Alternative Account of the 2004 Presidential Election." *The Forum* 2(4).
- Klinkner, P. A. (2006). "Mr. Bush's War: Foreign Policy in the 2004 Election." *Political Research Quarterly* 36(2): 281-296.
- Karol, David, and Edward Miguel. 2007. "The Electoral Cost of War: Iraq Casualties and the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election." *The Journal of Politics* 69 (3):633-48.
- Guth, J. L., L. A. Kellstedt, et al. (2006). "Religious Influences in the 2004 Presidential Election." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36(2): 223-242.
- Campbell, J. E. (2004). "The Presidential Election of 2004: The Fundamentals and the Campaign." *The Forum* 2(4).
- McAllister, Ian. "A War Too Far? Bush, Iraq, and the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Vol 36, 2 p260 -280
- Gray, M. M., P. M. Perl, et al. (2006). "Camelot Only Comes but Once? John F. Kerry and the Catholic Vote." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36(2): 203-222.

**28-Sep Governing by Campaigning: The Politics of the Bush Presidency**

- Campbell, James E. 1997. The Presidential Pulse and the 1994 Midterm Congressional Election. *Journal of Politics* 59 (3):830-857
- Ray Fair, "Presidential and Congressional Vote-Share Equations."
- James E. Campbell, "A Note on the U.S. House Vote Equation in Ray Fair's 'Presidential and Congressional Vote-Share Equations.'"
- Ray Fair, "Response to 'A Note on the U.S. House Vote Equation,' by James E. Campbell."
- Cohen, Jeffrey E. "The Polls: Presidential Referendum Effects in the 2006 Midterm Elections." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 37 (3), 545-557.

**5-Oct Midterm Exam – In Class Essay Exam – we will use computer lab**

**12-Oct FALL BREAK**

**19-Oct The Limits of the Bully Pulpit**

- Edwards, George C. 2003. *On deaf ears: the limits of the bully pulpit*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

**26-Oct The Presidential Dilemma**

- Genovese, Michael A. 2003. *The Presidential Dilemma: Leadership in the American System 2nd Edition*. New York: Longman.

**2-Nov Bush and Polarized Politics**

- Jacobson, Gary. 2006. *A Divider, Not a Uniter: George W. Bush and the American People*. Edited by G. C. E. III, Great Questions in Politics. New York: Longman.

**9-Nov Polarized Politics: Congress and the President in a Partisan Era**

- Groeling, Tim, and Samuel Kernell. 2000. Congress, the President, and Party Competition via Network News. In *Polarized Politics : Congress and the President in a partisan era*, edited by J. R. Bond and R. Fleisher. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

- Bryan, B. W. M. Marshall, and R. L. P. Pacelle Richard. 2005. Revisiting the Two Presidencies. *American Politics Research* 33 (1):81-105.
- Deering, Christopher J., and Forrest Maltzman. 1999. The Politics of Executive Orders: Legislative Constraints on Presidential Power. *Political Research Quarterly* 52 (4):767-783.
- Gilmour, John B. 2002. Institutional and Individual Influences on the President's Veto. *Journal of Politics* 64 (1):198-218.
- Mayer, Kenneth R. and Kevin Price. 2002 "Unilateral Presidential Powers: Significant Executive Orders, 1949-99" *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 32, Issue 2, Page 367-386, Jun 2002

**16-Nov            The Political/Cultural Divide: Myth or Reality?**

- Fiorina, Morris P., Samuel J. Abrams, and Jeremy Pope. 2005. *Culture war?: The myth of a polarized America*, Great questions in politics series. New York: Pearson Longman.
- Evans, John J., and Lisa M. Nunn. 2005. The Deeper "Culture Wars" Questions. *The Forum* 3 (2).
- Abramowitz, Alan, and Kyle Saunders. 2005. Why Can't We All Just Get Along? The Reality of a Polarized America. *The Forum* 3 (2).
- Abramowitz, A. I., B. Alexander, et al. (2006). "Incumbency, Redistricting, and the Decline of Competition in U.S. House Elections." *The Journal of Politics* 68(1): 75-88.

**23-Nov            Thanksgiving Break**

**30-Nov            Stalemate: Causes and Consequences of Legislative Gridlock**

- Binder, Sarah A. 2003. *Stalemate : causes and consequences of legislative gridlock*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

**6-Dec            FINAL EXAM**