

Political Science 320: The Presidency

Teaching Assistant: Brian Harrison

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Office: Scott Hall 220

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-2:00pm

Sections:

Section 60 [DIS 57013]: Wednesday, 3:30-4:20pm (Annenberg Hall 101)

Section 63 [DIS 57015]: Thursday 1:00-1:50pm (Kresge Hall 4445)

Section 65 [DIS 57017]: Friday 12:00-12:50pm (Technological Institute L158)

Students are expected to adhere to codes of academic and classroom decorum and to behave in a respectful manner appropriate for a community of scholars. The course material may generate heated discussion or debate and all students should be respectful with their comments. Students should not engage in distracting, unprofessional and/or rude behavior - including eating or excessive chatter - during class time. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off at the door. Please refrain from texting, emailing, or chatting on Gmail during section or I may institute a no laptop policy for section.

Section Objectives:

- (1) To clarify and to deepen understanding of terms, definitions, theories, models, and issues that arise in course readings and during course lectures by Dr. Galvin
- (2) To critique and to analyze existing research on the American Presidency; to explore the methodologies and assumptions used in the Presidency literature; and to propose new and creative ways to evaluate the topic

Attendance and Participation: You are expected to read all assignments, to come to class ready to discuss course readings, and to be a contributing member of the section. Please arrive on time; arriving late is disruptive and demonstrates disrespect for fellow students and the teaching assistant. If you leave class early, are chronically tardy or disrupt the class in any way, your participation grade will be adjusted to your detriment. Students are allowed one unexcused absence from section; additional unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your section grade. Excused absences must be documented *before* the section has started; e-mails sent the same day of section are not acceptable excused absences. Students will not be able to make up any in-class assignments to receive a grade for a missed section meeting except in extraordinary circumstances (as defined by the professor and teaching assistant) and in cases of documented medical/emergency situations. Students must get the explicit permission of the teaching assistant to attend a section in which they are not enrolled; if a student wishes to attend a different section, they must officially re-enroll in the new

section.

Section grading & requirements: Your physical attendance will not guarantee a good section grade. I will assign your section grades (10% of your overall course grade) on the basis of critical evaluation of material, the quality of required discussion questions, and engagement with section discussion, materials, and group work. If I feel students are not completing the course reading, I reserve the right to give quizzes or additional reading and assignments that will factor into the overall section grade. I will keep track of the frequency and quality of your class contributions, attentiveness to discussions and to fellow classmates' comments. Grades will not be discussed over e-mail or via telephone; please attend my office hours to address questions about course or section grading.

Each week, students must prepare at least two discussion questions on the assigned readings for the week. Questions will be used to facilitate discussion and should therefore focus on those parts of the readings that students found intriguing, problematic, difficult, persuasive, etc. These questions should explicitly address toward the issues in the assigned readings; however, if questions arise from lecture material, discussion questions should be as specific as possible. I will randomly select discussion questions that will serve as the basis of our section discussions. The students whose questions are selected are expected to lead discussion on the topic/question and to stimulate discussion on the selected question.

Note: Questions will be collected at the *beginning* of each class for attendance purposes and no late assignments will be accepted. It is the student's responsibility to turn in discussion questions on time; late assignments will not be accepted and no credit will be given for students not in attendance of that day's section meeting regardless of whether questions are turned in.

Students with Disabilities: Students requiring classroom accommodation for disabilities must provide written documentation from the appropriate university official regarding the specific disability during the first week of class. Any student with a disability requiring special accommodation should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (847.467.5530; www.northwestern.edu/disability) as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the student to make the teaching assistant aware of any disabilities as soon as possible so all possible accommodations can be made.

Copyrighted Class Materials: All course materials used in section including but not limited to class notes, lectures, handouts, and presentations are the copyrighted materials of the teaching assistant. The copying and sale of any such materials will subject the involved parties to the provisions of the Federal Copyright Act.