The U.S. Presidential Election Process
FALL 2008
Dr. Phillip J. Ardoin
Tuesday 3:30-6:00pm in Room 1131

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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Phone: 262-7187 (office)/ 268-1559 (home)
Room: 2049 Old Belk Library Classroom Bldg
Website: http://www1.appstate.edu/~ardoinpj/

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday: 9:15-Noon & 1-2:00pm
Wednesday: 9:15-Noon & 1-2:00pm
Thursday: 9:30-Noon

If the 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.

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. E-mail is the most efficient means of contacting me and or requesting information. I compulsively check my e-mail throughout the day and evening. E-mail allows me to respond to your questions about assignments, tests and other class material in an efficient and timely manner even when I am off campus.

MY FALL 2008 CLASS SCHEDULE:
MWF 8-8:50 American National Government
MW 2-3:15 Presidency and Executive Branch
Tues :3:30-6:00 Graduate Seminar Readings and Research in American Politics (Presidential Election Process)

Course Description: This course provides us an opportunity to delve into a number of topics, questions, and problems associated with the presidential election or selection process in the United States. The goals of the course are straightforward. By the end of the semester you should have a fairly enlightened understanding of the U.S. Presidential election process and an understanding of the core research and critical theories regarding presidential elections. With luck, you will also be able to speak intelligently and make some sense of what you read and hear in the media and from friends and family --keeping in mind that sometimes what you read and hear makes no sense at all.

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.

Disability Services - Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at http://www.ods.appstate.edu/ or 828-262-3056.
**Grading: Your grade in this course will be calculated as follows:**

- **Reaction Papers:** 20%
- **Participation:** 20%
- **Blog Posts:** 15%
- **Midterm Exam:** 20%
- **Comprehensive Final Exam:** 25%

**Exams** – There will be 2 exams in this course. The exams will cover all material discussed in class and covered in the assigned readings. The midterm exam will constitute 20% of your course grade and will be an in class essay exam conducted in the department’s computer lab. The comprehensive final exam will constitute 25% of your course grade and will be a take home essay exam.

**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. Your reaction papers must be uploaded to our AsULearn web page by midnight the day before class. The 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. 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, you will simply receive a zero for the paper.

The purpose of the reaction 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. A good reaction paper will begin with a brief summary of the major points or findings of the reading, will note weaknesses in the author(s) analyses/conclusions, will suggest alternative methods of analysis, and will provide suggestions for future research on the topic. When developing your critique of the assigned readings, you are encouraged to integrate the readings from other weeks, other classes, and even readings which were not assigned in class.

**Blogging:** I am setting up a BLOG for my classes this semester which will focus on the 2008 Presidential Election. Each week two of you will be responsible for finding one or more articles related to an issue being discussed in the media or in our classes. You are required to post the article and provide a brief summary or reaction to the article. You will be graded on the uniquenes and quality of the articles you post and your summary or reaction to the article. The Blog will be read by students in our class and also in my undergraduate Presidency course.
Course Text Books and Readings:

- CD-Rom with readings
- AsULearn Website

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
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<td>Syllabus and Introductions</td>
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<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Looking Back: The Myths and Realities of the 2004 Presidential Election</td>
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<td>Sept 9th</td>
<td>The Presidential Nomination Process and Conventions</td>
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<td>Presidential Debates and Media Coverage of Elections</td>
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<td>Voting and Election Issues and Concerns – Is it a Conspiracy?</td>
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PS 5135 Readings and Research in American Politics  
**The U.S. Presidential Election Process**  
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**Sept 4** Looking Back: The Myths and Realities of the 2004 Presidential Election

**Sept 9th** The Presidential Nomination Process and Conventions

**Sept 16th** Presidential Debates and Media Coverage of Elections
- Inside the Presidential Debates: Chapter 6 and Appendix A

**Sept 23rd** In Defense of Negativity

**Sept 30th** Why The Electoral College is Bad for America

**Oct 7th** The Race to 270: The Electoral College and the Campaign Strategies of 2000 and 2004

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**Dec 9th**

**Governing by Campaigning**