

THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

Fall 2008

POLS 102.001

Contemporary Political Issues

Monday & Wednesday 4:00-5:15 pm

Maybank Hall Room 111

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Office Hour: Wednesday 3-4
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FIRST WEEK OF CLASS

Since I am an Alternate Delegate for Hillary Clinton, I will be attending the Democratic National Convention in Denver during the first week of the Fall Semester. Therefore, there will be NO POLS 102.001 Class during the first week of this semester. In my absence each student should watch the Convention and should then search out the various Blogs that are covering the Convention. Each student should then prepare a 2 full-page paper highlighting which Blogs were the three best (in the student's judgment) and the reasons why. This brief paper is due on Monday, September 1 at the start of class.

Each student should also read The Executive Summary (pp. xiii-xviii) of The Iraq Study Group Report. There will be a Daily Quiz on The Executive Summary at the start of class on Monday, September 1.

INTRODUCTION

Democracy is a participatory sport. Unlike the Super Bowl or the Olympics, this "game" is for keeps. War and peace really do hang in the balance. AMERICANS YOUR AGE ARE FIGHTING AND DYING AROUND THE GLOBE BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY.

Thomas Jefferson firmly believed that an informed citizenry was essential to the survival of a democracy. That is the goal of this course. The stakes are far too high to remain on the sidelines.

This is also an especially exciting time to take this course since this Fall's presidential election will clearly make history. Accordingly, each student will be required to volunteer for a presidential or federal campaign. In essence, this course is designed for maximum student participation both in and outside the classroom.

Student attendance is MANDATORY. Failure to attend any of the Debates will result in the loss of one point on the student's final grade for each Debate missed. In reference to the Daily Quizzes, the two lowest quiz grades will be eliminated and the remaining quiz grades will be averaged. In other words...SHOW UP FOR CLASS...AND COME PREPARED.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

THE IRAQ STUDY GROUP REPORT
James Baker & Lee Hamilton, Co-Chairs
Vintage Books

PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID
President Jimmy Carter
Simon & Schuster

WHAT HAPPENED: Inside the Bush White House
Scott McClellan
Public Affairs Publisher

COURSE ORIENTATION

This course will consist of six major components:

- Daily Quizzes
- Three Tests
- Student Debates
- Summary & Analysis of *PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID*
- Class Lectures
- Campaign Volunteer Work

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Regular class attendance and careful preparation for each class are required. Students must read the assigned chapter in the text books prior to each class.

Students must perform the assignments outlined in this syllabus and submit the required reports **ON TIME**.

Since teachers are "academic coaches," students are expected to show up for class just as athletes are expected to show up for practice. Attendance will be taken.

If absent, a Student is still responsible for everything covered during that class. Small study groups and good class notes are invaluable. No "extra credit" work will be offered. Students should concentrate on doing their best on the assignments outlined in this syllabus.

Students must demonstrate respect for the teacher and their fellow classmates during class. Disturbances of any kind (e.g., private conversations, cell phones, text messaging, etc.) will not be permitted. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, it will be recorded as an absence.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If a student requires any type of SNAP accommodations, please make the appropriate notifications and arrangements with the Center for Students with Disabilities during the first week of classes. Alternatively, if a student has a physical impairment of any kind that will require special arrangements for exams or papers--or, if a student must travel due to membership in any approved athletic, club or organizational program--please notify the teacher during the first week of classes. The information will be kept confidential.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The regular office hour for this course will be on Wednesday, between 3:00 - 4:00 pm at the COFFEE SHOP AT OUR NEW LIBRARY. Students may request a meeting at another time or place by using my PERSONAL email (zebracove@aol.com) or my cell phone (843-822-3254). My PERSONAL email (zebracove@aol.com) will be checked daily during the semester. Please use my personal email address only. Do NOT use my edisto account. Questions, comments or concerns pertaining to this course may also be placed via my cell phone (843-822-3254) between the hours of 10 am - Midnight, seven days a week. Calls placed before 10 am will earn a grade of "X."

DAILY QUIZ...20%

The Daily Quiz will focus exclusively on that day's reading assignment. It will be given at the start of the class at 4:00 pm sharp and will consist of 10 objective questions (10 points each). (The Convention Assignment will be counted as though it were a Daily Quiz.) At the end of the semester the two lowest quiz grades will be eliminated and the remaining quiz grades will be averaged. That average will represent 20% of the student's final grade for the Course.

If a student is absent from class or arrives after the quiz period has ended, the quiz grade for that class will be zero. There will be no make-up quizzes.

STUDENT DEBATE...10%

Student Debates will be held throughout the semester. The topics are listed in this syllabus. Two teams consisting of two students each will be randomly drawn with two weeks to prepare. One class period will be devoted to each debate. At the end of the period, the remaining students will recommend a grade for each team by secret ballot. The Professor will cast the deciding ballot. Each student must prepare and submit two questions in preparation for the Debate. **STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE GRADED ON THEIR PARTICIPATION.** The format for each debate will be:

- Five minutes for opening statements from each side, starting with the affirmative.
- Ten minutes of rebuttal from each side, including questions from the class.
- Five minutes of closing statements from each side, starting with the affirmative.
- Secret ballot vote by the members of the class.
- Tabulation of the vote and decisive vote by the Professor.

TESTS...30%

There will be a total of three Tests throughout the semester. Each Test will be comprehensive (i.e., it will cover EVERYTHING read, reviewed or discussed during that period of the Course) and will consist of 25 objective questions (2 points each) and five essay questions (10 points each) plus a five point bonus question. Each Test will be one hour in length. A brief review will immediately follow each Test.

The next phase of the Course will begin at the completion of the Test and review. Each Test will cover only the material contained in that phase of the course. Each of the three Tests will represent 10% of the final grade for the course for a total of 30%.

If a student is absent from class on Test day, that Test must be made up by appointment at the earliest opportunity and a 10 point penalty will be applied to the Test grade.

2008 CAMPAIGN REPORT...20%

This year's political campaigns are some of the most exciting in United States history. In order to own a piece of the action, each student will be required to devote a minimum of TEN HOURS as a volunteer in one of the following Federal campaigns:

FOR PRESIDENT

Barrack Obama...Democrat
John McCain...Republican
Bob Barr...Libertarian
Ralph Nader...Independent

FOR US SENATE from South Carolina

Lindsay Graham...Republican
Bob Conley...Democrat

FOR US HOUSE...South Carolina's 1st Congressional District

Linda Ketner...Democrat
Henry Brown...Republican

Each student should search the web for information on the candidates listed above and then select ONE of those Federal campaigns. (Make certain that the candidate you select actually has an active campaign in the Charleston area.) You must submit your candidate choice and the local campaign contact information in writing at the start of class on Wednesday, September 3. You must then volunteer at least ten hours to that campaign.

After the election is over, each student must prepare a 2008 CAMPAIGN REPORT (6-8 double-spaced pages) answering the following questions:

- 1) Why did you select this specific candidate ?

- 2) To whom did you report throughout the campaign (name, phone, email address)
- 3) What specific activities did you participate in during the campaign ?
- 4) What did you like least about the campaign experience (be specific) ?
- 5) What did you like best about the campaign experience (be specific) ?
- 6) How did your impression of the candidate change during the campaign ? Why ?
- 7) How did your impression of American politics change during the campaign ? Why ?

This Report is due on Wednesday, November 19 at 4:00 pm.

Ten points will be subtracted from the Report grade if it is late. The final grade for this Report will represent 20% of the student's final grade for the Course.

SUMMARY & ANALYSIS OF PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID...20%

Each student will be required to read President Jimmy Carter's most controversial book: **PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID**. This assignment will be divided into three segments. Each student will be required to prepare a THREE FULL PAGE, double-spaced SUMMARY of each segment and a THREE FULL PAGE, double-spaced ANALYSIS (i. e., what do YOU think ?) of each segment. The cover page should simply include the student's name, the title of the book, the class and the date.

Ten points will be subtracted from the Report grade if the paper is late. The Three Reports will be averaged and that grade will represent 20% of the student's final grade for the Course.

GRADES

Grades are based on a straight scale:

A	= 93 - 100	C	= 73 - 77
A-	= 90 - 92	C-	= 70 - 72
B+	= 88 - 89	D+	= 68 - 69
B	= 83 - 87	D	= 63 - 67
B-	= 80 - 82	D-	= 60 - 62
C+	= 78 - 79	F	= 59 and below

IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of Class	August 27
Daily Quiz	Most Mondays
Student Debate	Most Wednesdays
Tests	October 6 November 12 December 8
<i>PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID Chapters 1-5</i>	September 22
<i>PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID Chapters 6-13</i>	October 29
<i>PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID Chapters 14-Appendix -7</i>	December 3
Convention Assignment Due	September 1
2008 Campaign Report Due	November 19
Fall Break	October 13-14

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Personal integrity is extremely important in college and throughout life.

When you enrolled in The College of Charleston, you signed an Honor Code. You are expected to live up to that code. It is the only way for you to maintain the integrity and value of your degree.

If you cheat on an exam or plagiarize any portion of your reports, you will fail this course and your case will be turned over to the Honor Board for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions or are unsure what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, ASK. Ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

- Wednesday, August 27
- Course Syllabus
 - Sample Quiz
 - Convention Assignment

Week 2

- Monday, September 1
- Daily Quiz
 - The Iraq Study Group Report
Executive Summary (pp. xiii-xviii)
 - Convention Assignment Due

- Wednesday, September 3
- Daily Quiz
 - The Iraq Study Group Report
Part 1: Assessment (pp.1-21)
 - Candidate Selection Assignment Due

Week 3

- Monday, September 8
- Daily Quiz
 - The Iraq Study Group Report
Part 1: Assessment (pp.22-40)

- Wednesday, September 10
- Student Debate
 - Resolved:
THE MILITARY DRAFT SHOULD BE REINSTATED

Week 4

- Monday, September 15
- Daily Quiz
 - The Iraq Study Group Report
Part 2: External Approach (pp.41-58)

- Wednesday, September 17
- Student Debate
 - Resolved:
THE USA PATRIOT ACT THREATENS CIVIL LIBERTIES

Week 5

- Monday, September 22
- Assignment Due:
 - *PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID* (pp. 1-102)
(Summary & Analysis of Chapters 1-5)

- Wednesday, September 24
- - Student Debate
 - Resolved:
MARIJUANA SHOULD NOT BE DECRIMINALIZED

Week 6

Monday, September 29

- Daily Quiz
- The Iraq Study Group Report
Part 2: Internal Approach (pp. 59-77)

Wednesday, October 1

- Daily Quiz
- The Iraq Study Group Report
Part 2: Internal Approach (pp. 78-102)

Week 7

Monday, October 6

- Test #1
- Review Test

Wednesday, October 8

- Student Debate
- Resolved:
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS SHOULD BE SENT HOME

Week 8

Monday, October 13

- FALL BREAK
- No Class

Wednesday, October 15

- Student Debate
- Resolved:
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS NO LONGER NEEDED

Week 9

Monday, October 20

- Daily Quiz
- WHAT HAPPENED: Preface-Chapter 3 (ix-37)

Wednesday, October 22

- Student Debate
- Resolved:
TORTURING TERRORIST PRISONERS IS PERMISSIBLE

Week 10

Monday, October 27

- Daily Quiz
- WHAT HAPPENED: Chapters 4-5 (39-86)

Wednesday, October 29

- Assignment Due:
- *PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID* (pp. 103-168)
(Summary & Analysis of Chapters 6-13).

Week 11

Monday, November 3

- Daily Quiz
- WHAT HAPPENED: Chapters 6-8 (87-147)
- 2008 Election Preview

- Wednesday, November 5
- Class Discussion
 - 2008 Election Results

Week 12

- Monday, November 10
- Daily Quiz
 - WHAT HAPPENED: Chapters 9-10 (149-189)

- Wednesday, November 12
- Test #2
 - Review Test #2
-

Week 13

- Monday, November 17
- Daily Quiz
 - WHAT HAPPENED: Chapters 11-12 (191-231)

- Wednesday, November 19
- 2008 CAMPAIGN REPORT DUE
 - Student Debate
 - Resolved:
GAY MARRIAGE SHOULD NOT BE LEGALIZED

Week 14

- Monday, November 24
- Daily Quiz
 - WHAT HAPPENED: Chapters 13-14 (233-269)

- Wednesday, November 26
- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
 - No Class

Week 15

- Monday, December 1
- Daily Quiz
 - WHAT HAPPENED: Chapters 15-17 (271-323)

- Wednesday, December 3
- Assignment Due:
 - *PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID* (pp. 169-247)
(Summary & Analysis of Chapters 14 - Appendix 7)

Week 16

- Monday, December 8
- Test #3
 - Review Test #3

- Tuesday, December 9
- Reading Day

- December 10-17
- Final Exams

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Fall 2008

POLS 102: CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ISSUES
First Day of Class

August 27, 2008

STUDENT'S NAME _____

-----**SAMPLE QUIZ**-----

Objective Questions (10 points each):

1. What is the current population of the United States ?
2. In the Mideast, what do the initials PLO represent ?
3. What are the three branches of the National Government ?
4. OPEC is an international organization pertaining to which specific issue ?
5. Who is Nancy Pelosi ?
6. Which country is on Iran's western border ?
7. The country of Kurdistan is located on which continent ?
8. In mid-August, the Russian Army invaded which neighboring country ?
9. What is the EU ?
10. Who is Gordon Brown ?