

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

**THE U.S. PRESIDENCY
POLS 5311, SECTION 001
FALL, 2007**

**TH 7:00-9:50 P.M.
16 UNIVERSITY HALL**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. FARRAR-MYERS
OFFICE: 450 UNIVERSITY HALL
OFFICE HOURS: TTH 4:00 – 5:00;
AND BY APPOINTMENT**

**PHONE: 817-272-5265
MAILBOX: 206 UNIVERSITY HALL
E-MAIL: VICTORIA@UTA.EDU**

INTRODUCTION:

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the major theories, approaches, and current questions driving the study of the American presidency. The first half of the class will focus on different theoretical perspectives employed by political scientists in the study of the president and presidency. The second half of the class will focus on specific dimensions of presidential activity to gain a fuller appreciation of the role of the presidency vis-à-vis other actors in American politics. Students will gain from this course the ability to: identify, analyze, and evaluate the key theoretical approaches to the study of the presidency; evaluate the varying contexts of and rival actors to presidential leadership; and, synthesize the theoretical perspectives under study to formulate their own research questions to more fully appreciate an aspect of the presidency.

REQUIRED TEXTS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE):

Charles Jones. 2005. *The Presidency in a Separated System*, 2nd ed. Washington, D.C.:
The Brookings Institution Press.

Richard Neustadt. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents: The Politics of
Leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan*. New York: The Free Press.

Stephen Skowronek. 1997. *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams
to Bill Clinton*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Jeffrey Tulis. 1987. *The Rhetorical Presidency*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University
Press.

* *Additional readings are available either via JSTOR or (if PSQ) available via the library
catalog search.*

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RECOMMENDED READING:

I strongly recommend reading a daily newspaper. You can also see the following newspaper Internet sites:

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com>

Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Fort Worth Star-Telegram: <http://www.star-telegram.com>

Dallas Morning News: <http://www.dallasnews.com>

LIBRARY INFORMATION:

Students will find useful research information for political science at <http://library.uta.edu/JDBC/DBs/narrowdbs.jsp?DBID=POLSCIENCE>.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE:

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. In addition, the instructor reserves the right to give the student a failing grade for the assignment or the course.

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"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION:

Students may communicate with the instructor via e-mail. However, the student bears the burden to ensure that the instructor received such electronic communications. The instructor will respond to each e-mail to indicate receipt; if the student does not receive such a response, the student should assume that the instructor has not reviewed the e-mail and, in fact, may not have received it. **In no event may a student turn in any assignment by e-mail or other form of electronic communication without the prior approval of the instructor.** All assignments must be turned in during class in accordance with this syllabus.

ATTENDANCE/DROPS:

You are required to attend **all** class meetings. The questions for the exams will be drawn equally from the required readings and class material. Therefore, you put yourself at a great disadvantage by missing classes. In addition, missed classes will directly affect the Participation portion of your final grade.

The student must initiate all drop actions. A student who does not drop the course and who does not complete the required coursework will receive a grade of "F." Students who wish to drop the course should go to the Political Science Department Office, University Hall 206. **The last date to drop the class is November 2, 2007.**

EVALUATION:

Your final grade will be based on the following criteria:

Analytical Paper #1:	10%
Analytical Paper #2:	10%
Research Paper:	35%
Final Exam:	35%
Participation:	10%

The following scale will apply: 90 to 100 percent—A; 80 to 89 percent—B; 70 to 79 percent—C; 60 to 69 percent—D; less than 60 percent—F. There are no extra-credit assignments in this course. Students must demonstrate mastery of the course work on the required examinations and assignment, and through class participation.

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Students must turn in all the required assignments and the Final Exam. No extensions or make-up exams will be granted, except for situations such as medical emergencies, deaths in the family, etc. In such situations, a student is expected to contact the instructor as soon as possible (preferably in advance) and will be required to provide proof of the event. Under such circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor to make up any work missed.

All assignments are due *at the start of class* on the date indicated. Any assignment turned in after this point will be considered late and penalized five (5) points for each 24-hour period (or part thereof) that the assignment is not turned into the instructor after it is due. A grade of zero will be given to any requirement that is not fulfilled by the earlier of (a) one week after the original due date, or (b) the date on which the professor submits final grades for the course.

A grade of "Incomplete" for the course will not be awarded without prior consultation with the instructor. The student is responsible for initiating this consultation. Incompletes will be given only for such reasons as medical emergencies, serious emotional distress, etc. The instructor reserves the right of final decision.

- 1) **Analytical Papers** (each worth 10%): Students will write **two (2)** analytical papers based on a minimum of four (4) scholarly journal articles related to course readings. The papers should be 5-7 double-spaced, typed-written pages. One (1) analytical paper must be related to the topics covered in the first part of the class (i.e., from the start of the semester through the readings assigned for September 27) and one (1) from the second part (i.e., from October 4 through November 15th). Students will evaluate the outside articles as they relate to the course material. Additionally, students should use the questions provided in "reading for a purpose" (provided in my greeting letter) and the "questions to consider before class herein" under each week to guide them in their analysis. Analytical Paper #1 is due on **October 4, 2007**, and Analytical Paper #2 is due on **November 15, 2007**.
- 2) **Research Paper** (35%): Students will write an original research paper on a topic related to the study of the presidency. You will be free to select a topic of your choice, but you should consult with the professor in developing your topic and research throughout the semester. A brief abstract of the proposed paper along with ten scholarly sources will be due on **October 18, 2007**.

The paper should be 20-25 double-space, typed-written pages. **It must be turned into the professor or Political Science Department (206 UH) no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, November 30, 2007.** In addition, you will be required to make a short presentation (8-10 minutes) regarding your paper in class on **Thursday, December 6, 2007**. More information regarding the paper and presentation will be provided during the semester.

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- 3) **Final Exam** (35%): Students must complete a take-home final exam. The exam covers all material from throughout the entire course (i.e., everything is “fair game” including any topic discussed in class). The Final Exam will consist of essay questions. The exam questions will be handed out in class on **Thursday, December 6, 2007**, and is due no later than 8:15 p.m. on **Thursday, December 13, 2007**.
- 4) **Participation** (10%): You will be graded on your ability to interact on a scholarly level with your colleagues during classroom debate throughout the semester. The grade will reflect your regular attendance, your familiarity with the material, and your ability to interact in the class during discussion. You must regularly attend class, but regular attendance without further participation is not sufficient for a passing grade in participation. Reading of the assigned material is NOT optional, but simply having read the material for each class is not sufficient for a passing grade in participation. Meeting these two requirements is simply fulfilling your basic requirements as a graduate student. Only regular, intelligent, and thoughtful participation in class discussion will be sufficient for a passing grade in participation. Saying nothing in class will be taken as a sign of lack of preparation. You must be able to respond intelligently to questions about the material and the ideas in the material. Simple description of the material is not sufficient; you should think analytically about the material and the ideas it presents. In class, you must be able to understand the material’s premises and consequences, and to relate the material to the particular themes of the class as well as the dominant theories in social science.

In addition, your in-class paper presentation will be factored into your overall participation grade. Missing more than two (2) classes will result in a *failing grade* in this category unless there is an acceptable excuse provided to the instructor.

END OF SEMESTER GRADES:

Grades for all courses will be posted on MyMav during the week after finals week. If you want to know your final exam grade and your final course grade before then, bring a self-address, stamped postcard to the final exam. Final exams may be picked up at the beginning of the next semester. Please do not call or e-mail the department office or the instructor for final grades.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK:

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. Classes are held as scheduled during this week and lectures and presentations may be given.

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TENTATIVE TOPIC SCHEDULE:

The following schedule is an outline of reading assignments and exam dates. The instructor may add additional readings as the semester progresses. This schedule is **not** definite. We may move more quickly than anticipated in some sections, and more slowly in others. Announcements regarding scheduling changes will be made in class and you are responsible for staying abreast of these changes.

Unless otherwise announced by the instructor during class meetings, students will be expected to have read the assigned material by the dates indicated:

KEY: Jones = Jones, *The Presidency in a Separated System*
Neustadt = Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*
Tulis = Tulis, *Rhetorical Presidency*
Skowronek = Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make*
* *Additional readings are either available via JSTOR or (if PSQ) available via the library catalogue search.*

DATE

TOPIC / ASSIGNMENT

Thursday, August 30:

Library Session – Room 215 Central Library

I. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY

Thursday, September 6:

Presidential Power

READ: Neustadt

Questions to consider before class:

- * What does this theory focus upon?
- * Given this theoretical perspective, what is left out?
- * How is leadership defined?
- * What is the role of the president or presidency?
- * What is meant by power?
- * What is meant by authority?

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Thursday, September 13: **Systemic Perspective**
READ: Jones

Questions to consider before class:

- * What does this theory focus upon?
- * Given this theoretical perspective, what is left out?
- * If Jones is right, why has our system become so presidency-centered?
- * What does “separation” really mean in everyday governing?

Thursday, September 20: **Historical/Institutional**
READ: Skowronek

Questions to consider before class:

- * What does this theory focus upon?
- * Given this theoretical perspective, what is left out?
- * What is political time and why it is so important here?
- * What makes *the entire* presidency worth examining?
- * Are there any problems with the notion of “regimes” here?
- * If this theory is correct, why does he return to the personal presidency in the end?

Thursday, September 27: **Rhetorical Presidency**
READ: Tulis

Questions to consider before class:

- * What does this theory focus upon?
- * Given this theoretical perspective, what is left out?
- * What made presidents begin to use rhetoric?
- * How has this role changed the presidency?
- * Is this theoretical understanding important to understanding just the modern presidency?

II. SPECIFIC DIMENSIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

Thursday, October 4:

Unilateral Executive

READ:

- * “Executive Orders and Presidential Power.” Kenneth R. Mayer. *The Journal of Politics*. Volume 61, No. 2 (May 1999), pp. 445-466.
- * “The Law: Unilaterally Shaping U.S. National Security Policy: The Role of National Security Directives.” Vikki Gordon. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 37, No. 2, pp. 349-367.
- * “Unilateral Powers: A Brief Overview.” William G. Howell. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 35, (September 2005), pp. 417-439.
- * “The Changing Nature of Presidential Policymaking on International Agreements.” Glen S. Krutz and Jeffrey S. Peake. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 36 (September 2006), pp. 391-409.
- * “Inherent War and Executive Powers and Prerogative Politics.” Richard M. Pious. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 37, No. 1, (March 2007), pp. 66-84.
- * “George W. Bush, Edgar Allan Poe, and the Use and Abuse of Presidential Signing Statements.” Phillip J. Cooper. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 35 (September 2005): 515-532.

Questions to consider before class:

- * What does it mean to act unilaterally?
- * Are there different tools, contexts, and factors that Presidents use to act/justify acting unilaterally?
- * What are the implications for the system of separation of powers and the presidency for a president to act unilaterally?

DUE: Analytical Paper #1

Thursday, October 11:

Presidential-Legislative Relations

READ:

- * “Presidential Vetoes and Congressional Response: A Study of Institutional Conflict” David W. Rohde; Dennis M. Simon. *American Journal of Political Science*, Volume 29, No. 3 (Aug., 1985), pp. 397-427.
- * “Going Public as a Legislative Weapon: Measuring Presidential Appeals Regarding Specific Legislation.” Andrew W. Barrett. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 35 (March 2005), pp. 1-10.
- * “The President in a More Partisan Legislative Arena.” Richard Fleisher and Jon R. Bond. *Political Research Quarterly*. Volume 49., No. 4 (Dec., 1996), pp. 729-748.
- * “Measuring Presidential Success in Congress: Alternative Approaches.” George C. Edwards III. *The Journal of Politics*. Volume 47, No. 2, (Jun., 1985), pp. 667-685.
- * “The Contemporary Presidency: Managing White House-Congressional Relations: Observations from Inside the Process. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 30 (September 2000), pp. 553-563.
- * “Congressional Support of the President: A Comparison of Foreign, Defense, and Domestic Policy Decision during and after the Cold War. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 31, (December 2001), pp. 660-669.
- * “Passing the President’s Program: Public Opinion and Presidential Influence in Congress. Douglas Rivers and Nancy L. Rose. *American Journal of Political Science*. Volume 29, No. 2 (May, 1985), pp. 183-196.

Questions to consider before class:

- * What role does the president play in the legislative process?
- * How do presidents gain an advantage in this arena?
- * Why are the relations between the presidency and Congress so combative?
- * Is the conflict between the two institutions over power, authority or both?

Thursday, October 18:

Presidency and Judiciary

READ:

* “Presidential Power and the United States Supreme Court.” Jeff Yates and Andrew Whitford. *Political Research Quarterly*, Volume 51, No. 2 (Jun., 1998), pp. 539-550.

* “Executive-Judicial Interaction as a Factor in Explaining Presidential Policy Making.” Barbara L. Graham. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 32, (September 2002), pp. 509-530.

* “The Law: Litigating the War Power with *Campbell v. Clinton*.” Louis Fisher. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 30 (September 2000), pp. 564-574.

* “Supreme Court Support for the Solicitor General: The Effect of Presidential Appointments.” Jeffrey A. Segal. *The Western Political Quarterly*. Volume 43, No. 1, (Mar., 1990), pp. 137-152.

* *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld* (2004) (J. O’Connor opinion of the Court only) – available at: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/pdf/03-6696P.ZO>

* “The Contemporary President: Should the Senate Take a Floor Vote on a Presidential Judicial Nominee? David A. Crockett. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 37, No. 1 (Jun., 2007), pp. 291-312.

Questions to consider before class:

- * How do presidents choose their judicial appointments?
- * What impact does the president have on the courts?
- * The Senate is supposed to provide “advice and consent.” How has this role changed and why?
- * What limitation has the Court placed on presidential action?
- * What is the role of the Court in curtailing presidential action?

* ***DUE: A brief abstract of the proposed paper along with ten scholarly sources.***

Thursday, October 25:

Staffing, Bureaucracy & Decision-Making

READ:

- * “Agencies by Presidential Design.” William G. Howell and David E. Lewis. *The Journal of Politics*. Volume 64, No. 4, (Nov., 2002), pp. 1095-1114.
- * “Explaining Increasing Turnover Rates among Presidential Advisers, 1929-1997.” Matthew J. Dickinson and Kathryn Dunn Tenpas. *The Journal of Politics*. Volume 64, No. 2 (May, 2002), pp. 434-448.
- * “The Institutionalization of the American Presidency, 1924-92.” Lyn Ragsdale and John J. Theis III. *American Journal of Political Science*. Volume 41, No. 4, (Oct., 1997), pp. 1280-1318.
- * “White House Structure and Decision Making: Elaborating the Standard Model. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 29 (September 1999), pp. 638-656.
- * “Presidents, Chiefs of Staff, and White House Organization Behavior: Survey Evidence from the Reagan and Bush Administration. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 30, (September 2000), pp. 421-442.
- * “An Evaluation of the Bush Administration Reforms to the Regulatory Process.” Stuart Shapiro. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 37, No. 2, (June 2007), pp. 270-290.

Questions to consider before class:

- * What role does staff play in the presidency?
- * How do presidents choose their management role?
- * What has the increase in staffing done to the institution of the presidency?
- * How does the president affect the bureaucracy and its functioning?

Thursday, November 1:

Presidents and Public Policy

READ:

- * “Presidential Influence in the Policymaking Process.” Dennis W. Gleiber and Steven A. Shull. *The Western Political Quarterly*. Volume 45, No. 2 (Jun., 1992), pp. 441-467.
- * “The Politics of Presidential Agendas.” Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha. *Political Research Quarterly*. Volume 58, No. 2 (Jun., 2005), pp. 257-268.
- * “Presidential Agenda Setting in Foreign Policy.” Jeffrey S. Peake. *Political Research Quarterly*. Volume 54, No. 1 (Mar., 2001), pp. 69-86.
- * “Presidential Rhetoric and Economic Leadership.” B. Dan Wood. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 34 (September 2004), pp. 573-606.
- * “Presidential Persuasion on Social Issues: A Two-Way Street?” Michael Bailey, Lee Sigelman and Clyde Wilcox. *Political Research Quarterly*. Volume 56, No. 1 (Mar., 2003), pp. 49-58.
- * “Institutional Foundations of the President’s Issue Agenda.” Jeff Yates and Andrew Whitford. *Political Research Quarterly*. Volume 58, No. 4 (Dec., 2005), pp. 577-585.

Questions to consider before class:

- * Do presidents have more leeway in foreign as opposed to domestic policy?
- * How are priorities set by the administration?
- * What role do presidents have in setting the agenda?
- * What is the impact of the presidency on the policymaking process?

Thursday, November 8:

Public, Media, and Parties and Interest Groups

READ:

- * “Advocacy Politics in Presidential Parties.” John M. Bruce, John A. Clark, and John H. Kessel. *The American Political Science Review*. Volume 85, No. 4 (Dec., 1991), pp. 1089-1105.
- * “The Presidency and Organized Interests: White House Patterns of Interest Group Liaison. Mark A. Peterson. *The American Political Science Review*. Volume 86, No. 3 (Sept., 1992), pp. 612-625.
- * “The Changing Presidential Media Environment.” Martin P. Wattenberg. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 34 (September 2004), pp. 557-572.
- * “The Contemporary Presidency: Communication Operations in the White House of President George W. Bush: Making News on His Terms.” Martha Joynt Kumar. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 33 (June 2003), pp. 366-393.
- * “Promise and Performance: A Dynamic Model of Presidential Popularity.” Charles W. Ostrom, Jr. and Dennis M. Simon. *The American Political Science Review*, Volume 79, No. 2 (Jun., 1985), pp. 334-358.
- * “The Second Face of the Public Presidency: Presidential Polling and the Shift from Policy to Personality Polling.” Lawrence R. Jacobs and Melanie Burnes. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 34 (September 2004), pp. 536-556.

Questions to consider before class:

- * What role do the media play in the functioning of the presidency?
- * How does the public judge the president?
- * Is the president the chief party leader?
- * What impact do organized interests have on presidential action?
- * What is the impact of the public opinion on the presidency?

Thursday, November 15:

Presidential Campaigns and Elections

READ:

- * “The Money Primary: What Influences the Outcome of Pre-Primary Presidential Nomination Fundraising. Randall E. Adkins and Andrew J. Dwodle. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 32 (June 2002), pp. 256-275.
- * “The End Game in Post-Reform Presidential Nominations.” Barbara Norrander. *The Journal of Politics*. Volume 62, No. 4 (Nov., 2000), pp. 999-1013.
- * “The Polls: Presidential Referendum Effects in the 2006 Midterm Elections. Jeffrey E. Cohen. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 37, No. 3 (September 2007), pp. 545-557.
- * “The Methods behind the Madness: Presidential Electoral College Strategies, 1988 1996.” Daron R. Shaw. *The Journal of Politics*. Volume 61, No. 4 (Nov., 1999), pp. 893-913.
- * “The Bush Effect: Polarization, Turnout, and Activism in the 2004 Presidential Election.” Alan I. Abramowitz and Walter J. Stone. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 36 (June 2006), pp. 141-154.
- * “The Role of Issues in the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election.” Arthur H. Miller, and Thomas F. Klobucar. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 33 (March 2003), pp. 101-124.

Questions to consider before class:

- * What role does money play in presidential elections?
- * What has happened to make the presidential nomination and election process, as many perceive it, less competitive?
- * What role and effect does sitting presidents have on re-election campaigns?
- * What is the nature of current presidential campaigns?

DUE: Analytical Paper #2

Thursday, November 22:

No class -- Thanksgiving

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Thursday, November 29: Current Issues in Presidential Research Scholarship
READ:

Note: Various APSA conference papers will be assigned.

Questions to consider before class:

- * What theories/issues explored throughout the class can be found in the current scholarship?
- * Taking into account all you have learned this semester, what issues do you think remain to be explored?
- * Would you recommend publishing this paper? If so, why? If not, why not?

DUE: Research Paper is due by Friday, November 30, 2007 by 5:00 p.m. Please turn in the paper at the Political Science Office (206 UH) if I am not in my office. Papers received after 5:00 p.m. will be considered late and penalized according to the policy stipulated herein. To ensure receipt of your paper, please do not place your paper under my office door.

Thursday, December 6: Student Paper Presentations (8-10 minute)

* *Take-Home Final Exam Questions Distributed in class.*

FINAL EXAM – Thursday, December 13, 2007 (8:15 p.m. – 10:45 p.m.).

****Your Take home final exams are due no later than 8:15 p.m. Prior to 5:00 p.m. please turn in your exam at the Political Science Office (206 UH). After 5:00, you can turn your exam into me at my office (450 UH). Finals received after 8:15 will be considered late and penalized according to the policy stipulated herein. To ensure receipt of your paper, please do not place your paper under my door.***