

Political Science 106  
American Presidency  
Fall 2009  
HGH 116  
M,W 1:30-2:45

Professor Gerston  
Office Hours:  
M/W 6:30-7:25 AM  
M/W 10:30-11:55 AM  
and by appointment  
[lgerston@sjsu.edu](mailto:lgerston@sjsu.edu)

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE**

Without a doubt, the American presidency is the most powerful political office in the world. Whether it is the vast arsenal of military might at his disposal, his ability to impact both the national economy as well as the economies of other nations, or his power to shape domestic policy for years to come through judicial appointments, the president is unparalleled in stature and influence.

This course examines the American presidency from several perspectives, among them:

- The emergence of the presidency as an institution, from the past to the present
- The contradictions and competing themes within the presidency
- The tension between the presidency and other institutions, most notably Congress
- Potential issues and candidates for the 2008 presidential election

No one knows with any certainty the extent to which the preeminence of the presidency will continue into the future, particularly in an era of globalization and emerging powers. Few would dispute, however, the preeminence of this office over the past 50 years and its central position in the world today.

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Caesar, Busch and Pitney, *Epic Journey*, 2009  
Daalder, *America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy*, 2005  
Edwards and Wayne, *Presidential Leadership*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, 2009  
Occasional handouts

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is not required, but strongly encouraged inasmuch as not all material on the exams comes from the text only.

## CELL PHONES

*As a courtesy to other students and the professor, please make sure that cell phones are turned OFF. If your phone/pager goes off during class, you will be asked to leave. I AM VERY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS ISSUE.*

## SPECIAL EVENING LECTURES

There will be at least two special lectures by candidates for California governor during the semester as part of the Don Edwards Lecture Series. Edwards served in the U.S. Congress for more than 25 years as a representative from the San Jose area. At a date to be determined, a well known political or historical figure will give the Edwards lecture at 7:00 p.m. in Morris Dailey Auditorium. **Attendance will be mandatory**; in exchange for attending this lecture, there will be no class on a date established by the professor.

Note: the lecture is videotaped for those with schedule conflicts.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>. Be advised that faculty members are required to report **all infractions** to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. In other words, plagiarism and cheating on exams, papers, or assignments are serious offenses that may result in grades of F or expulsion from the university.

## LEARNING ASSISTANCE

The SJSU **Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC)** provides tutoring assistance on a weekly or drop-in basis. This is an excellent resource skills development. The LARC is located in the Student Services Center, Room 600 (between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Street on San Fernando). Hours: M-R 9-6, F 9-3. Phone: 408-924-2587. All services are offered to registered SJSU students free of charge.

## EXAMINATIONS AND EVALUATION

There are three examinations in this course. Midterm I will cover materials from the first third of the course; Midterm II will cover materials from the second third of the course. The Final Examination will cover the last third

of the course. Essay and short answer formats will be used for all three examinations. In each instance, you will be required to bring **NEW blue books** and **pens**. **Only medical problems (with physician's note) are accepted reasons for missing an exam.** Class participation will count for 10% of the course grade.

Performance is evaluated as follows:

Midterm I	30%
Midterm II	30
Final Examination	30
Participation	<u>10</u>
Total:	100%

### **READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SCHEDULE (tentative)**

August 24	Introduction; general remarks
August 25-September 12	Edwards/Wayne, Chapters 1-5
<b><i>September 7</i></b>	<b><i>No Class (Labor Day)</i></b>
September 13-24	Edwards/Wayne, Chapters 6-9
<b><i>September 15</i></b>	<b><i>Tom Campbell, Republican candidate for governor, Morris Dailey Auditorium, 7 PM</i></b>
September 25-October 7	Edwards/Wayne, Chapters 10-13
<b><i>September 27</i></b>	<b><i>No Class</i></b>
October 7	Midterm I Review
<b><i>October 12</i></b>	<b><i>No Class</i></b>
<b><i>October 14</i></b>	<b><i>Midterm I</i></b>
<b><i>October 14</i></b>	<b><i>Steve Poizner, Republican candidate for governor, Morris Dailey Auditorium, 7 PM</i></b>
October 15-22	Daalder and Lindsay, Chapters 1-6
<b><i>October 19</i></b>	<b><i>No Class—Furlough day</i></b>
October 23-30	Daalder and Lindsay, Chapters 7-12

October 31-November 10	Edwards/Wayne, Chapters 14-15
<i>November 11</i>	<i>Midterm Review</i>
<i>November 16</i>	<i>Midterm II</i>
November 17-20	Ceaser <i>et al</i> , Chapters 1-2
November 21-25	Ceaser <i>et al</i> , Chapters 3-4
<i>November 26-27</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Recess</i>
November 28-December 7	Ceaser <i>et al</i> , Chapters 5-7
December 8	Final Exam Review
<i>December 14</i>	<i>Final Examination, 12:15-1:45</i>

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you require assistance because of a disability, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 also requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish to use available services.