

**School for New Learning
DePaul University
Spring 2007**

FA 379 War Presidents/Peace Presidents

Faculty: R. Craig Sautter
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Location: Loop

Dates: Tuesdays, April 3 – June 5, 2007

Hours: 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Credit: 4 Quarter Hours

Course Description

Presidents of the United States have been analyzed from various perspectives over the years: as Federalists or Anti-Federalists; as Whigs, Democrats or Republicans; as liberals or conservatives; as friendly to business or labor or consumers; as good campaigners or bad; as popular or unpopular; successful or unsuccessful, and so forth. This course will look at the history of the U.S. presidency through the lens of War and Peace.

Presidents have been entrusted by the People with enormous powers, but none so solemn and vital as those of “Commander-in-Chief.” During the nation’s 231 years, which Presidents have been primarily known for their roles as War Presidents? Which wars were “major” and which “minor?” Which wars were initiated by which Presidents? Which were wars in response to attacks on the United States? Which were wars initiated by Congress? Were all of these wars “Just Wars?” What is a “Just War?” Does it matter whether or not it is “Just” or just that we win? Which Presidents pursued diplomacy to avert war? Which Presidents were known for their dedication to Peace? Which were both War and Peace Presidents? How did the various Presidents handle tough times of war or peace? How did they perform as leaders and react to public dissent or support? What was the impact of their decisions on the nation’s well-being? What lessons can we learn from these histories?

Students will explore these and other questions throughout the quarter. Each student will individually study one President from the 18th or 19th century during the first five weeks of class; as well as a 20th century President during the final five weeks, by reading from various biographical sources. Each week students will bring their reading and research results to share with the class, so we gain an even broader perspective. We also will follow the unfolding events of the current U.S. overseas wars and the actions of the current President of the United States, Congress and Press.

Competences

A-3-C Can examine a social problem from an ethical perspective.

H-1-X Written by student/faculty.

H-2-X Written by student/faculty.

H-5 Can analyze issues and problems from a global perspective.

Faculty

R. Craig Sautter is author or co-author of ten books, including three on U.S. Presidents: *Inside the Wigwam: Chicago Presidential Conventions 1860-1996* (with Alderman Edward M. Burke); *Philadelphia Presidential Conventions (1856-2000)*; and *New York Presidential Conventions: The Pre-TV Era 1839-1924*. (See www.presidentialconventions.com) He is the immediate past president of the Society of Midland Authors. He has appeared on a variety of news shows, including on WLS and C-Span, and was featured in a PBS documentary, "The Picking of the President: The Parties are Over." He also writes and produces TV and radio ads and speeches for political campaigns across the country for Sautter Communications: Political Strategy and Media, Washington D.C. and Chicago (See www.sauttercommunications.com). He has taught a wide variety of courses in philosophy, politics, history, literature, and creative writing at SNL over the past 26 years.

Learning Experience

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have:

1. An overview and appreciation of the American Presidency from its origins to the present, and will be able to identify which leaders were War Presidents, which Peace Presidents, which were both;
2. An in-depth appreciation and understanding of two Presidents from different eras and their roles as either War Presidents or Peace Presidents;
3. An ability to analyze the problems of war and peace confronting the United States at critical moments in its history and the contributions of Presidents in resolving those issues;
4. An understanding of "Just War" theory and an ability to apply that theory to various historical and current situations.

Learning Strategies

1. Reading from biographies and other biographical resources, analyzing results, informal lectures, class discussions and debates;
2. Each student will read two biographies of U. S. Presidents; one from the 18th or 19th century, one from the 20th century, and report to the class each week on the content of their reading, with a primary focus of finding out their Presidents' relation to war and peace;
3. The Internet, tapes and films;
4. Keeping a notebook of readings, clippings and sources.
5. Writing a book review of one of the Presidential biographies that they read; or a general paper on the results of their research with a focus on their Competences.

Learning Tools

Required reading:

1. Two Presidential biographies selected by the student and obtained from a library or a bookstore, plus Internet or library research;
2. Daily newspapers, magazines, media sources.

Recommended reading for lifelong learning:

Evidence Students Will Submit

1. On week 10, all students will submit a book review or final paper and a spiral notebook containing their notes, research results, and index of reading sources.

Criteria for Assessment

Student grades will be based on:

1. Completion of reading assignments ... two biographies, hand-outs, news clippings or Internet sources and research;
2. The quality of your book review or final paper;
3. The quality of your class contributions to large and small discussion groups;
5. Your development as an intelligent reader and person who can discuss what you are reading.

Spring 2007 Schedule

Session 1: April 3, 2007Introduction, book assignments, discussion of the American Presidency and the Constitution on the question of war powers;

Session 2: April 10, 2007Discussion of Presidential biographies and current war and presidential events;

Session 3: April 17, 2007Discussion of Presidential biographies and current war and presidential events, readings on “Just War” theory;

Session 4: April 24, 2007Discussion of Presidential biographies and current war and presidential events;

Session 5: May 1, 2007Discussion of Presidential biographies and current war and presidential events;

Session 6: May 8, 2007Discussion of Presidential biographies and current war and presidential events;

Session 7: May 15, 2007Discussion of Presidential biographies and current war and presidential events;

Session 8: May 22, 2007.....Discussion of Presidential biographies and current war and presidential events;

Session 9: May 29, 2007.....Discussion of Presidential biographies and current war and presidential events;

Session 10: June 5, 2007Last formal class ... Final book review/paper and notebooks are due, final discussion of Presidential biographies, and current war and presidential events;

Session 11: June 12, 2007No class, last chance for submission of material before negotiating an Incomplete; individual consultations.

Student Consultation

Feel free to contact the instructor to clarify work, discuss problems, or ask for guidance.

Call (before 9 p.m.) or e-mail to explain absences or get assignments or discuss other issues. (First try to get assignments from classmates.)