

Political Science 436
The Presidency (Summer 2009)
Monday - Thursday 12:00pm – 1:40pm
HT – 022

Instructor: Mike Binder

Office Hours: Tues 11:00am – 12:00pm, Thurs 11:00am – 12:00, after class or by appt.

Office: Nasitir Hall 108B

Cell Phone: (619) 519-4276

Email: mbinder@ucsd.edu

In this class we will explore the American Presidency from two sides. First, we will examine the President himself – how his character and personality has shaped the office and public policy. Second, we will look at how institutional factors have affected history in terms of what we expect from the President and what they can do as a leader. While we will focus on President Obama and some other key Presidents, the goal of the course is to understand the Presidency as a political institution.

Required Texts:

Barber, James D. 2008. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House*. 5th Edition. Prentice Hall: Longman Classics Publishers. Paperback (**Barber**)

Edwards, George C. and Stephen J. Wayne. 2006. *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*. 7th edition. Thomson-Wadsworth Publishers. Paperback. (**E&W**)

Obama, Barack. 2004. *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*. Revised Edition. Three Rivers Press. Paperback. (**Obama**)

Requirements: Students are expected to prepare for class by reading and digesting the assigned material and contribute to class by asking questions and engaging in serious discussion of the readings. The readings are listed by author and will be discussed in detail during class on the day listed.

Grading: Grades will be based on a midterm exam, a final exam, a predictive paper analyzing the Obama book through the lens of Barber's classifications of presidential character, reading quizzes, attendance and class participation.

Exams: Two in class exams (one midterm and one final) – you are required to bring a blue book and an 882-E Scantron for each.

Reading Quizzes: There will be several short in class quizzes on the assigned readings for that day; your lowest grade will be dropped. Quizzes CANNOT be made up. Use your 'free' quiz judiciously.

Attendance: All students are expected to attend every class having read the assigned material. This course is very 'hands on' and the value of being in class cannot be overestimated.

Participation: Class participation will be based on in class involvement and contributions to class discussions.

Predictive Essay: In this paper you will classify Barack Obama according to the coding scheme in Barber's book. Mimicking the format of Barber's chapters, spend approximately five pages to explain why you categorize Obama the way you do. You should primarily use evidence from his own books, but feel free to supplement your argument with examples from his public life and current administration.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating or plagiarism of any kind is not tolerated. Evidence of either will result in an F for the course and a report will be filed with the Center for Student's Rights and Responsibilities.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Total Points Available</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Midterm Exam	40	6/18
Predictive Essay	60	7/2 12pm
Final Exam	60	7/9
Attendance	15	Daily
Participation/Quizzes	<u>25</u>	Daily
	200	

Tentative Course Outline: (Subject to Change at Instructor's Discretion)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignments Due by date shown below</u>
Class 1 (5/28)	Introduction to the course	
Class 2 (6/1)	Overview of the Office Introduction to the Institution	E&W 1, Appendix C Obama Preface, 1
Class 3 (6/2)	The Personality	Barber, Foreword, Intro, 1 Obama 2-4
Class 4 (6/3)	Thinking Psychologically	E&W 8 Barber 3, p. 84-85, p. 120-122
Class 5 (6/4)	Beginning of the Cabinet	E&W 6
Class 6 (6/8)	Finish the Cabinet	Barber 6 Obama 5-6
Class 7 (6/9)	Primaries	E&W 2 Barber 7
Class 8 (6/10)	Primaries & General Elections	E&W 3 Barber 9
Class 9 (6/11)	General Elections	Barber 10

Class 10 (6/15)	Public Opinion	E&W 4 Obama 7-10
Class 11 (6/16)	Media	E&W 5 Barber 11
Class 12 (6/17)	Finish Media and Review	Barber 15
Class 13 (6/18)	Midterm Exam	
Class 14 (6/22)	Presidential Decision-Making	E&W 7 Obama 11-14
Class 15 (6/23)	President and the Bureaucracy	E&W 9 Obama 15-17
Class 16 (6/24)	President and Congress	E&W 10
Class 17 (6/25)	President and the Judiciary	E&W 11
Class 10 (6/29)	Judiciary continued	Obama 17-19, epilogue, Audacity Barber 1, 15
Class 11 (6/30)	Domestic Policy	E&W 12
Class 12 (7/1)	Budgetary Policy	E&W 13
Class 13 (7/2)	Primaries Again Paper Due	
Class 10 (7/6)	Foreign Policy	E&W 14 & 15
Class 11 (7/7)	Foreign Policy	
Class 12 (7/8)	Review	
Class 13 (7/9)	Final Exam	