Politics and Journalism: The Press and the Presidency

A. The Founders and the Constitutional Presidency—Introducing Tulis (Aug. 25)

   Tulis, *The Rhetorical Presidency*, Chaps. 1-2 (pp. 3-45)
   Publius, *The Federalist Papers*, #s 70-73

B. 19th Century American Democracy—Introducing Schudson (Sept. 1)

   Schudson, *The Good Citizen*, pp. 1-143
   Tulis, Chapter 2-3 (pp. 45-93)

C. Political Parties and Progressivism—Introducing Milkis (Sept. 8)

   Schudson, Chap. 4
   Tulis, Chapter 4

D. Journalism History and the 19th Century Origins of Objective Journalism (Sept. 15)

   Mindich, *Just The Facts*

E. Wilson, FDR and the Emergence of the Modern Presidency—Introducing Lowi (Sept. 22)

   Lowi, *The Personal President*, Chaps. 1-4
   Tulis, pp. 117-61

F. Milkis vrs. Lowi----Two Versions of the Problems of the Modern President (Sept. 29)

   Milkis, Chaps. 4-7
   Lowi, Chaps. 5-7
Course Assignments:

1. You will write a 15-20 page term paper due at the last class. You must choose a broad topic, in consultation with Mr. Elliott, by Sept. 30. A half page summary of the more precise topic is due by Oct. 17. This term paper will determine 40% of your final grade. I suggest these broad topic areas: the President as a leader of public opinion; the Reagan Presidency; the Clinton Presidency; the Bush Presidency; the Press and President Obama; investigative journalism and the Presidency; the adversarial relationship between the press and the President; the press and Presidential elections; the President as a celebrity; the commander-in-chief in the media age; or the Presidency, Political Parties, and the Press. The research should include the use of media materials.

2. There will be a 5-6 page essay as a substitute for a final exam which will be due during final
exam week. The topic will be handed out at the last seminar. This essay will count for 30% of your grade.

3. Each student will be responsible for closely following press coverage of President Obama during one week of the semester. In that week you will write a 3-4 page paper analyzing some of that press coverage, due at the seminar, and present an 8-10 minute oral report to the class. The paper and report does not have to try to summarize the totality of the coverage; you may pick out one or two themes or, perhaps, two or three stories to discuss which exemplify some characteristic of the relationship between the press and the presidency. This paper and oral report will determine 10% of your final grade.

4. There is a responsibility for students to participate in class discussion in a seminar; regular attendance is required, and you should come to class having completed the reading and having thought about how the reading assignment relates to the themes of the course. One or two students will be assigned topics or questions prior to each seminar, which in some cases may require some additional reading; the quality of your performance on these assignments will greatly influence your grade for class participation; a class participation grade will determined 10% of your final grade for the seminar.

5. Each student will select an extra reading assignment, from a list presented to the class, and present an 8-10 minute report to the class on that reading; the student will write a very short paper, about two pages, summarizing the major points of the scholarly article or book chapter. This short paper and oral report will also determine 10% of your final grade.

The regulations of the college with regard to academic honesty, as outlined in the Student Handbook, will be followed.

If you have specific physical, psychological or learning disabilities that will affect your participation in this class, please discuss your concerns with me in private early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You also need to contact Erin Salva, Coordinator of Disability Services, at PBX 5145 or via e-mail at SALVAE in order to document your disability and discuss appropriate accommodations.

Office: Horwitz House 2
E-mail: Elliottj

Office Hours: M-W-F 11:10--12:00
Tu 2:00--3:00
Th 1:15--2:15
Or by appointment