

**PSC 401G, Section 001 - Political Campaigns and Elections**

**Fall Semester, 2008 / WRI - C237**

**Instructor James J. Spinello / Office: WRI-A219 / Office Hours: Wednesdays 5:15 pm - 6:45 pm**

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**BOOKS:**      Campaigns on the Cutting Edge, Semiatin  
                    Rethinking American Electoral Democracy, Streb  
                    Is Voting for Young People?, Wattenberg

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will gain knowledge of the issues and factors involved in contemporary American political elections and knowledge and experience in political campaign organization and strategies.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Midterm Exam	30% of final grade	(October 15th, essay)
Final Exam	30% of final grade	(December 10, 8:10pm - 10:10pm, essay)
Campaign Analysis Paper	20% of final grade	(Due December 3rd, 2008 - NO late papers accepted)
Class Participation	15% of final grade	

**Campaign Analysis:** Each student is expected to volunteer for a political campaign, whether for an individual candidate for political office or a campaign advocating the passage or defeat of one or more ballot questions. The candidate or issue must be approved in advance. Each student will write an 8 to 10-page paper on the campaign, demonstrating a knowledge of the organization and strategies employed, and an assessment of their effects. Samples of campaign materials (brochures, organization charts, press releases, speech texts, etc.) should be included.

**OTHER FACTORS:**

1. Attendance will be taken; 3 absences will negatively effect a student's grade.
2. Academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action.
3. Students are expected to be respectful to each other and the class as a whole. Discussion and occasional debate is encouraged but must never become personal, heated, or monopolized. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
4. Cell phones must be off - not on "vibrate." Ringing cell phones will be confiscated.
5. Food and drinks are permitted but must be cleared by the end of each class.

**COURSE OUTLINE: Students should have read and be prepared to discuss listed works on dates shown.**

August	27th	Introduction
September	3rd	Streb, Introduction & Chapters 1, 2, 3,
	10th	Streb, Chapters 4, 5, 6,
	17th	Streb, Chapters 7, 8, 9
	24th	Streb, Chapters 10, 11
October	1st	Wattenberg, Introduction & Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4
	8th	Wattenberg, Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8
	15th	MIDTERM EXAM (Essay)
	22nd	Semiatin, Chapters 1 & 2
	29th	Semiatin, Chapters 3 & 4
November	5th	Semiatin, Chapters 5 & 6
	12th	Semiatin, Chapters 7 & 8
	19th	Semiatin, Chapters 9 & 10
	26th	Semiatin, Chapters 11 & 12
December	3rd	CAMPAIGN ANALYSIS PAPERS DUE - NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED
	10th	FINAL EXAM (8:10pm - 10:10pm, Essay)

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