

UNIV 100, Section 068: Presidential Elections and Political Parties  
Fall 2016 – MW 2:30p – 3:45p  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Course Description:** UNIV 100 has been designed to help you maximize their success in college by addressing a variety of issues that often lead to failure or withdrawal as well as providing you with information and strategies to enhance your academic success. In this course, students will learn the history of American presidential campaigns and elections. In addition, students will analyze the contemporary issues of each election season. We will explore the various tactics of candidates and debate their merits and faults. Through a critical analysis of the election process, students will emerge from this course better informed and more confident in their understanding of the American presidential election process.

The course has two parts:

1. Cajun Connection: August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>st</sup> (*all* scheduled UNIV 100 events)
2. First-Year Seminar: August 22 – November 9

**Cajun Connection**

Cajun Connection is a required component of UNIV 100. If you did not attend Cajun Connection on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, you must complete the online version of Cajun Connection on Moodle. In order to enroll in the online version of Cajun Connection, you must have prior approval from the Office of the First-Year Experience. The course is broken up into small sections, so you don't have to complete all of the activities at one time. However, you must have completed all sections of the online Cajun Connection by midnight on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> to receive credit for UNIV 100. If you do not complete Cajun Connection by this date, you will automatically fail UNIV 100, regardless of work you have already completed or your current grade in the seminar. As with all of your classes, failure of UNIV 100 will affect your cumulative GPA, which could impact your eligibility for Financial Aid, including TOPS, in future semesters, and your ability to compete in collegiate athletics or participate in other university sponsored programs.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**After successful completion of UNIV 100, students will be able to:**

1. Think critically and develop solutions to issues presented in class through formulating appropriate questions, investigating various options, and evaluating these options for relevance and preference.
2. Express personal reflections and opinions through both written *and* oral media.
3. Investigate answers to questions posed in class by learning to locate information and critically assessing the relevance and value of the information.

**Required Course Materials:**

Since there is no required textbook for this class, all assigned readings will be posted on the class Moodle page. You will need access to a computer and the internet to complete many assignments and readings. LUCKILY, there are multiple computer labs on campus for you to use for FREE!

**Course Grade:** Students *must* pass both the Cajun Connection and First-Year Seminar sections of the course to earn a passing grade in UNIV 100. Your grade in the Cajun Connection part of the course is “credit/no credit” (and will be provided to me from the Office of the First-Year Experience). Your grade in the seminar is based on the following:

Grade	Possible Points	Percentage of Total
▪ <u>Attendance</u>	100	14%
▪ <u>Class Participation</u> (Participation grade is dependent upon participation and completion of in class activities and assignments)	200	28%
▪ <u>The Big Event</u> (Participation and Reflection Paper)	100	14%
▪ <u>Research Writing Assignments</u>	200	28%
▪ Topic Essay		
▪ Bibliography		
▪ Rough Draft		
▪ Peer Review		
▪ Final		
▪ <u>Scavenger Hunt</u>	25	3%
▪ <u>Final Project Presentation</u>	100	14%

The final course grade will utilize the following grade scale:

90-100	= A
80-89	= B
70-79	= C
60-69	= D
< 60	= F

### **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance in class is very important and is mandatory. Attendance will be taken for every class period. Every student is “awarded” three free absences – this means that you can miss class without excuse or penalty up to three times. Any absences that are to be excused must be accompanied by official documentation to be considered. Simply showing up for class does not guarantee that you will be counted as present. If you are distracted or distracting, you will be counted as absent from class. Unauthorized use of technology will result in being counted absent (see policy below). Likewise, if you show up late or leave early without permission, you will be counted as absent.

**Student Interaction Expectations:** Students will respect each other and the instructor. Students will be expected to engage in group work during some classes. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions and treat the instructor and classmates with respect. Repeated failure to show respect can lead to dismissal from the course. The topic of this course has the potential to result in discussion that is not conducive to learning, it is absolutely important that all classroom discussion be on topic and respectful. We all have different backgrounds, beliefs, and passions and it is important to be mindful and respectful of those differences. Also, when it comes to classroom discussion: QUALITY OVER QUANTITY. Do not talk just to hear yourself talk, we don’t have time for that.

**Late Work Policy:** After the due date for an assignment has passed, students will have one week in which to submit the assignment for HALF CREDIT. After one week, the assignment grade will be recorded as a zero.

**Technology/Cell Phone Policy:** In our classroom, the only times when technology is allowed is when you are expressly instructed to use it for a specific assignment or project. If you are found using technology at any other time, or if you are found using it to work on something other than a class assignment, you will be recorded as absent that day. You should plan on taking notes the old fashioned way, by hand. Your cell phone should be kept in your book sack, purse, or pocket. Do not keep it on the desk or table.

**Recording Devices:** Lectures or course materials, such as quizzes, may not be recorded or disseminated in any fashion without prior approval from the instructor.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** The University of Louisiana at Lafayette policy on academic dishonesty is outlined in the 2016-2017 Undergraduate Catalog which can be found on ULINK. Failure to adhere to academic honesty policies may lead to academic penalties, including at a minimum earning a zero on the assignment and up to failure of the course. If you have any questions about this policy or you aren't sure how to appropriately cite others' work (such as information you found on the internet), ask me or visit The Writing Center (see below).

**Withdrawing from a course:** If you wish to withdraw from a course, you must do so by the last official day to withdraw, Wednesday, Oct. 5. After that time you will receive the grade assigned by the instructor.

**UNIV 100 Showcase:** TBD

**The Big Event:** Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30am-1:00pm. Participation is required. Participation itself is worth 7% of your total grade. In addition to participating, students will write a reflection paper on the experience. The reflection paper is worth another 7% of your total grade. Obviously, if you do not participate, you cannot write a reflection paper.

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

**Office of Disability Services:** For information about ODS and SEP services, contact Kim A. Warren, MSW, PH.D., LCSW, Supported Education Advisor, by phone at 482-5252, by email at [kimawarren@louisiana.edu](mailto:kimawarren@louisiana.edu), or by visiting the Office of Disability Services in the Conference Center, Room 126. Eligibility requirements are described at the ODS website (<http://disability.louisiana.edu/>).

**Counseling & Testing Center:** Free counseling services are available at the Counseling and Testing Center (<http://counselingandtesting.louisiana.edu/>) which is located in the Saucier Wellness Center in O.K. Allen Hall. Reasons for going to counseling include anxiety, depression, relationship difficulties, substance abuse, and more. You can contact the center by calling (337) 482-6480 or sending an email to [counseling@louisiana.edu](mailto:counseling@louisiana.edu).

**The Learning Center:** Services offered by The Learning Center include FREE individual (one-on-one) tutoring, study group tutoring, supplemental instruction (SI), computer lab assistance, and a wide variety of on-line resources, most of which are offered in coordination with various academic and administrative departments on campus. Tutors are available at The Learning Center for almost all 100- and 200-level math and science courses as well as for ACCT, BSAT, ECON, EECE, ENGR, ESOL, FREN, PSYC, SPAN, and STAT. The center is located on the second floor of Lee Hall and can be contacted at 337-482-6583 or [tlc@louisiana.edu](mailto:tlc@louisiana.edu) for information or assistance.

**The Writing Center:** The Writing Center exists to help you improve your research and writing skills. Services offered in The Writing Center include tutoring on all aspects of writing (from creating a draft to proofreading your paper) and workshops on topics ranging from how to do research to how to give presentations. The Writing

Center is in HL Griffin 107. You can find more information here: <http://english.louisiana.edu/about-us/writing-center/index.shtml>.

**Technical Support:** Students can access technical assistance by contacting the IT Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/>) at 337.482.4357 or email at [ithelp@louisiana.edu](mailto:ithelp@louisiana.edu). The IT Help Desk is located in room 201 of Stephens Hall.

**Safety Information:** University police, faculty and staff are the first responders for all emergencies on campus. To report an emergency, please dial 911 to connect to the campus police. Report any suspicious activity to campus police or faculty & staff. Make use of the emergency towers on campus and if you SEE something, SAY something!! Also, sign up for the emergency notification system on ULINK.

## COURSE CALENDAR

August 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

Cajun Connection

To be completed BEFORE Monday August 22, 2016

▪ All information is on Moodle.

1. Complete Anonymous Poll on Moodle
2. Complete iSideWith activity on Moodle
3. Read: *Article II of the United States Constitution, "The United States Presidential Election Procedure and Prospects"*, and the summary of the presidential election of 1789

Please note that students are expected to complete reading assignments prior to class and lectures will be based very heavily on text content. Dates and content are loosely scheduled and may change at any time).

Week 1

8-22 & 8-24

**First presidential election and the creation of Electoral College**

Topics/Assignments/Readings:

- [Article II of the U.S. Constitution](#)
- [Summary of the Presidential Election of 1789](#)
- [George Washington's Farewell Address](#)
- [XKCD's "Translation" of Washington's Farewell Address](#)
- Speech summary activity
- To read before next week:
  - "Jefferson and the Election of 1800"
  - [Amendment 12 of the United States Constitution](#)

Week 2

8-29 & 8-31

**Library Workshop and 1800 Election (Birth of a two-party system)**

Topics/Assignments/Readings:

- Library Scavenger Hunt (Due by midnight of September 2)
- **Reminder:** Short essay on research topic due by midnight on September 4!
- To read before next week:
  - "Chapter 11: 1828 – Jackson vs. Adams"

Week 3  
9-7

### **Election of 1828 – The Dirtiest Presidential Campaign in History (or at least I think so)**

#### Topics/Assignments/Readings:

- The “new” two-party system
- To read before next week:
  - [Comparison of early political parties](#) (link on Moodle, too)
  - “Victoria Woodhull, Anthony Comstock, and Conflict over Sex in the United States in the 1870s”

Week 4  
9-12 & 9-14

### **Evolution of Political Parties from 1789-1956 and the Election of 1872**

#### Topics/Assignments/Readings:

- Creation of party platforms for Federalists and Democratic-Republicans
- First party platforms for Democrats and Republicans (we will use this as our “base” when tracking to evolution of the two parties)
- Woman for president?
- **Reminder:** Research bibliography due by midnight on September 18!
- To read before next week:
  - “Chapter 23: 1876 – Hayes-Tilden Disputed Election”
  - [1876 Party Platforms for Democrats and Republicans](#)
  - [1912 Party Platforms for Democrats, Republicans, and Progressives](#)

Week 5  
9-19 & 9-21

### **Election of 1876, Electoral College, and Bull-Moose**

#### Topics/Assignments/Readings:

- Electoral College in-class activity
- Advantages/disadvantages of the Electoral College
- (Historical context) End of Civil War, beginning of Reconstruction
- Compromise of 1877
- Political Cartoons
- To read before next week:
  - “The Presidential Election of 1952”
  - [1952 Party Platforms](#)

Week 6  
9-26 & 9-28

### **Mid-Century Electioneering and Debates**

#### Topics/Assignments/Readings:

- Campaign methods
- The Living Room Candidate
- Debate in-class activity
- **Reminder:** Research rough draft due by midnight on October 2!
- **Reminder:** Last day to register to vote is October 11!
- To read before next week:
  - “Was the 1960 Election Stolen?”
  - [1960 Party Platforms](#)
  - [1964 Party Platforms](#)

- Week 7  
10-3 & 10-5
- Civil Rights and the Campaigns of 1960 and 1964**  
Topics/Assignments/Readings:
- (Historical context) Post WWII America and the Cold War, Civil Rights Movement, Racial Politics
  - Comparison of campaign commercials.
  - To read before next week:
    - [The Racial Politics of the 1964 Presidential Campaign](#)
- Week 8  
10-10 & 10-12
- Civil Rights and the Campaigns of 1960 and 1964**  
Topics/Assignments/Readings:
- 1964 election campaign commercials
  - **Bonus Point Opportunity:** Bring in proof of voter registration.
  - **Reminder:** Peer reviews completed by midnight on October 16!
    - Make comments/edits on Google Drive
  - To Read before next week:
    - [2000 Party Platforms](#)
    - “The 2000 Presidential Election, Postelection Contest: A Chronology”
- Week 9  
10-17 & 10-19
- Elections in the Modern Era**  
Topics/Assignments/Readings:
- **Reminder:** Final Draft of Research Paper due by midnight on October 23!
  - Analysis of news coverage of 2000 Presidential Election
  - Final Project Presentations
  - Comparison of campaign commercials.
- Week 10  
10-24 & 10-26
- Elections in the Modern Era**  
Topics/Assignments/Readings:
- 2000 Presidential Election
  - Final Project Presentations
- Week 11  
10-31 & 11-2
- Current Presidential Events**  
Topics/Assignments/Readings:
- Final Project Presentations
  - Current Event Analysis Activity
- Week 12  
11-7 & 11-9
- Current Presidential Events**  
Topics/Assignments/Readings:
- Final Project Presentations
  - 2016 Presidential Election predictions
  - **Bonus Point Opportunity:** “I Voted” Selfie!
  - 2016 Presidential Election Results

**November 17<sup>th</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup> UNIV 100 Showcase (Dupré Library)**

No Exam During the Final Exam Period: Near the end of the semester, you may receive an automatic e-mail from the university informing you of your final exam schedule based on the courses you are enrolled in. That e-mail **does not** apply to UNIV 100. The last class meeting will be November 9, 2016 because of our early start date with Cajun Connection.