

DRAFT

POLITICAL SCANDALS

Political Science 399

Priscilla Southwell

Summer 2017

(subject to minor revisions before the first day of class)

Class Hours: 10-11:20 p.m. MUWH (June 26-July 20)

Office Hours: 11:30-2:30 W or by appointment (804 PLC)

Email: psouth@uoregon.edu

This class provides a critical and historical analysis of the phenomenon of political scandals – those incidents where allegations of corruption or immorality have tarnished the reputations of certain political leaders, often resulting in their resignation from political office or government service. Certain examples from the U.S. were chosen, primarily because of the assignment of a special prosecutor and/or the depth and extensiveness of the subsequent investigation. We will also examine various examples of the “fall from grace” of prominent politicians.

TEXTS: Marion, Nancy. *The Politics of Disgrace: The Role of Political Scandal in American Politics, 2nd Edition* (2015); McHugh, Erin. *Political Suicide*. (2016)

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS:

Midterm Exam (July 6) - 40% - during class

Take-home Final Exam (July 19-20) - 60% - passed out at the end of class on 7/19, due at 5 p.m. on 7/20

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, FILM SHOWINGS, AND ASSIGNED READINGS:

(PLEASE NOTE THAT MANY OF THE FILM SHOWINGS IN CLASS WILL EXTEND BEYOND THE 3:20 ENDING TIME. IF THIS IS A PROBLEM FOR ANY OF YOU, PLEASE LET ME KNOW, AND I WILL PUT THE FILMS ON RESERVE. MOST OF THEM ARE ALSO EASILY DOWNLOADED OR RENTED.)

June 26 - The Whistleblowers – The Edward Snowden “Affair”

“Snowden” (134”)

Readings: Marion, Chapters 1-3

June 27 The Pentagon Papers and the Vietnam War (1945-1975)

“The Most Dangerous Man in America” (92”)

Reading: McHugh, pp. 1-40

July 28 Watergate and Beyond (1974)

Reading: Marion, Chapter 4

July 29 Film: “All the President’s Men” (138”)

Reading: McHugh, pp. 41-86.

July 3 – Iran-Contra Affair (1986 - December 25, 1992)

Film: "Coverup: Behind the Iran/Contra Affair" (72")

Reading: Marion, Chapter 5

July 4 – NO CLASS

July 5 – Abscam (1979) and the Keating Five (1984)

Reading: McHugh, pp. 87-142.

July 6 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION

July 10-11– Clinton – Lewinsky (1999-2000) and Other Scandals

Films: "Washington's Other Scandal" (60") and "Recount" (116")

Reading: Marion, Chapter 6, McHugh, pp. 143-182.

July 12-13 – Wall Street & Housing Crisis (2007-2009)

Film: "Inside Job" (108")

Reading: Marion, Chapter 7, McHugh, pp. 183-228.

July 17-18 Fall from Grace – Eliot Spitzer, Ted Kennedy, Gary Hart, etc, & Oregon Politicians

Film: "Client 9: the Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer" (117")

Reading: Marion, Chapters 8-9, McHugh, pp. 229-256.

July 19 The "Personal-Political" Argument – Take-home final exam passed out at the end of class

Film: "Damage" (111")

JULY 20 – TAKE- HOME FINAL EXAM – DUE AT 5:00 P.M.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES:

1. This is an intensive offering of this course. The lectures, required reading and films, and workload expectations are identical to a traditional quarter-long, ten-week course on this subject, so you should be prepared to do considerable reading and reviewing every day during this 4-week time period. It is highly recommended that you begin reading the course materials before the first class.
2. The PowerPoint files will be posted on CANVAS.
3. There will be no makeups for either exam without a written, documented excuse that is approved by me. If approved, all makeups will be held at 3 p.m. during Friday before the first day of the Fall term.
4. Students with disabilities will be accommodated. Please contact Disability Services, 164 Oregon Hall, 346-1155, and they will then advise me as to how to meet your needs.