

**Politics and DC in Film**  
**UCR Seminar (UCDC)**  
Fall 2008  
Friday 11AM-2PM  
UC Washington Center Room 1104

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DESCRIPTION

This quarter you will watch—and write about—politics and DC. Each week, we will watch one or two films on politics and DC. You will then get the chance to reflect on them by writing short papers and participating in class discussion. We will also organize field trips around the themes of the films.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Generally, we will watch a film in class on Fridays. Then you will watch a second film on UCDC TV (channel 6). Each Friday, we usually spend a few minutes discussing the films from the previous week.

Toward the end of the quarter, we will go on field trips to places that were featured in the films.

REQUIREMENTS

Students must attend class on Fridays, go on the field trips, and watch the films on UCDC TV. All of these requirements are compulsory.

Each week, you will be asked to write short papers (2-3 pages) where you answer questions about the films you have watched. The papers are due at the beginning of class following the films discussed. For example, the first paper, which will discuss “Mr. Smith” and “The Candidate”, is due on October 2. I will generally hand out questions ahead of time so you can think about them while viewing the films.

Each paper will be 2-3 pages in length and answer questions related to the films. Papers must be handed in at the beginning of class. I do not accept late papers, except in cases of *force majeure* (e.g., serious illness accompanied by written documentation).

The field trips are an important part of the class (and fun too!). You must come on the field trips in order to pass the class.

An incomplete (I) will be granted at my discretion only in legitimate instances and must be discussed with me before the final exam.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I expect students to refrain from cheating, plagiarizing, or engaging in any other type of academic misconduct. For a definition of academic misconduct, please consult the UCR Academic Integrity Definitions on the Academic Senate website:

[http://senate.ucr.edu/agenda/041116/CEP\\_STUDENT\\_INTEGRITY\\_DEFINITIONS.pdf](http://senate.ucr.edu/agenda/041116/CEP_STUDENT_INTEGRITY_DEFINITIONS.pdf)

See also this UCR student guide on academic conduct:

<http://conduct.ucr.edu/NR/rdonlyres/8AB3F747-822F-4AD7-B644-2D85290FCDB2/265/AcademicIntegrityforStudents.doc>

Without exception, cases of academic misconduct will be referred to Student Judicial Affairs and dealt with according to University policy. For the purposes of your grade, engaging in academic misconduct can result in a grade of “F” on the assignment or “F” for the entire course, or both.

If you have any questions regarding academic misconduct, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- October 3: Paper #1 due at the beginning of class
- October 10: Paper #2 due at the beginning of class
- October 17: Paper #3 due at the beginning of class
- October 24: Paper #4 due at the beginning of class
- October 31: Paper #5 due at the beginning of class

### **Week 1 (Sep. 26)**

*Films*

“Mr. Smith Goes to Washington”

“The Candidate” (UCDCTV—Channel 6)

**Week 2 (Oct. 3)**

*Films*

**PAPER #1 DUE**

“Advise and Consent”

“Bulworth” (UCDCTV—Channel 6)

**Week 3 (Oct. 10)**

*Films*

**PAPER #2 DUE**

“The Fog of War”

“Charlie Wilson’s War” (UCDCTV—Channel 6)

**Week 4 (Oct. 17)**

*Films*

**PAPER #3 DUE**

“Fail-Safe”

“Dr. Strangelove” (UCDCTV—Channel 6)

**Week 5 (Oct. 24)**

*Films*

**PAPER #4 DUE**

“All the President’s Men”

“Wag the Dog” (UCDCTV—Channel 6)

**Week 6 (Oct. 31)**

*Field Trip*

**PAPER #5 DUE**

Pentagon tour: Meet in UC Center lobby at 10:30AM

**Week 7 (Nov. 7)**

*Field Trip*

Capitol tour: Meet in UC Center lobby at 11AM

**Week 8 (Nov. 14)**

*Field Trip*

GWU Gelman Library tour: Meet in UC Center lobby at 11AM

**Week 9 (Nov. 21)**

*Film*

Dave

**THANKSGIVING BREAK (Nov. 28)—No class**

**Week 10 (Dec. 5)**

*Film*

TBA