

Good Morning and Welcome!

Thank you for enrolling in **Presidential Leadership** (Government GOV 635), which meets from 9 am until 12 noon on Wednesday in 201 Robertson Hall. I will gladly visit with you before or after class or in my **office**, RH 335, either by appointment or just stopping in.

Since we want to learn “what makes presidents tick,” our **goals** include: (1) how and why presidents lead, (2) how to analyze presidential leadership, (3) basic principles of presidential leadership, and (4) the historical setting of presidential leadership.

We will read *seriatim* one chapter per week from three **texts**: Charles W. Dunn, *The Seven Laws of Presidential Leadership* (Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006), Charles W. Dunn, *The Scarlet Thread of Scandal: Morality and the American Presidency* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000), and Joseph M. Williams, *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace* (Longman, 2004).

When asked how to make the best career preparation, NBC-TV Anchor **Tom Brokaw** said on *Larry King Live*: “**Learn to write.**” In *Making the Most of College* (Harvard University Press, 2001), Richard J. Light says: “Write, Write, Write. Choose courses with many short papers instead of one or two long ones.”

Accordingly, **acting as an advisor to President George W. Bush**, you will submit seven weekly memoranda on “What should President Bush learn from the week’s readings and lectures.” Specifications include: (1) not more than three-to-five pages, (2) double-spaced, (3) typewritten, (4) 12-point Times font, (5) one-inch margins, (6) in-text citations, and (7) a one-paragraph addendum of how Williams’ ideas helped your writing of that week’s memorandum. Let’s have fun thinking of appealing titles for our memoranda. The best memoranda and titles will receive weekly Big Dog Awards. Additionally each of us will read, review, and report on a **biography or autobiography of an American President**, chosen from the Bibliography in *The Seven Laws of Presidential Leadership*. The review, following the relevant specifications above, should not exceed seven pages.

Final grades depend upon the quality of weekly memoranda. An exceptional record of class attendance, punctuality, class participation, and submission of memoranda on time may result in raising your final grade, while a poor record may do the opposite. Tardiness counts as an absence. Our **grading scale** follows: A (91-100), B (81-90), C (71-80), D (61-70), and F (60 and below). Students may also earn plus and minus grades. Please read the “Academic Integrity” section of the *Academic Policy Handbook*: 66.

What can you expect in **class**? Debates, discussions, round tables, buzz groups, oral reports, and lectures. Reserving the right to make changes in our course, I want us to have fun in every class.

Charles W. Dunn