

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION SEMINAR ASSIGNMENTS

1000 total points available

Journal—100 points.

Each student will keep a bound scrapbook where they can include each day's assignments, news clippings, reflections, photographs, FIRE questions, artifacts, PowerPoint slides from presentations, poetry, cartoons, summary of guest speaker's lecture, other creative work, correspondence copies, etc. All artifacts must be included in this journal. Papers should also be stored electronically as it is possible that students would use these papers later in Portfolio. This journal will be submitted on Sunday, January 25 by 5 pm to the Reading Room at 424 Hoffmann Hall. It will be graded on content, creativity of display, and organization equally.

Articles—50 points.

Each and every class will begin with *What's In the News* where students will share articles that they have read from the prior day's media reports on the upcoming inauguration. News clippings from newspapers and magazines will be affixed to the classroom wall w/student initials. The articles will be removed on Jan 12 to be placed in the Journal. Each article will be worth 5 points up to 50 points.

Assignment #1 Written and Partner Oral Activity: A Transfer of Power –100 total points

The inauguration ceremony is a politically significant event; it highlights the peaceful transfer of power from one national leader to another. The 20th Amendment of the Constitution stipulates the date of this peaceful transfer. Thus, in the United States, the government's transition is actually mandated by the highest law of the land. But not all nations transfer power by constitutional directive, nor do all of them transfer power peacefully. Divide into partnerships of two, and each team must conduct research to determine how power is transferred in one of these types of governments as assigned.

- totalitarian dictatorship,
- oligarchy,
- parliamentary representative democracy,
- presidential representative democracy,
- transitional government
- monarchy.

Partners must share their findings, and share any examples of the transfer of power within their assigned governments in a group discussion. Identify countries in your category, and indicate which of those countries abide by a constitution. Then, as a class we will discuss how the existence of a constitution affects the transfer of power process. Internet research will aid in being able to cite your sources. Partners will share the same grade. The speech rubric will be used to evaluate each oral presentation. 50 points.

This group activity will be the basis for Written Report #1-Letter explaining transfer of power

As an individual, write a two page letter to a high school government class in another country of your choice defining how the U.S. government transfers power and what is going to occur on January 20. Single space. 11 point font. You may include charts or photographs if appropriate as attachments. Cite your sources internally within the letter. Attached writing rubric will be used to grade the assignment. DUE Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009. 50 points

Written Assignment #2 Inaugural Addresses—50 points

Read each of the excerpts from selected inaugural addresses below. Be prepared to analyze and discuss what you think the speaker is saying in each case. Each student will choose a Presidential Inaugural Address to analyze. Students may choose any of the Presidents' addresses, but only one President is allowed per student. Students may sign up for a President on the bulletin board sign up list posted Nov. 1 outside office 421 Hoffmann. Research the events surrounding that period and write a four page, double spaced 12 point font essay describing the political, social and/or economic circumstances that led to that President's choice of words on his Inauguration Day. APA style is encouraged, but MLA will also be accepted. You will then present your paper with visual aids to the class in a five minute oral presentation. Cite at least three sources in your bibliography. Include the citations orally in your presentation. 50 points total--25 for paper, 25 for oral presentation.

"The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are...staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people." --- George Washington, First Inaugural Address, 1789

"I believe [the U.S. is]...the strongest Government on earth. I believe it is the only one where every man, at the call of the law, would fly to the standard of the law, and would meet invasions of the public order as his own personal concern. Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the forms of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question." --- Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, 1801

"I hold, that in contemplation of universal law, and of the Constitution, that the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper, ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination." ---Abraham Lincoln, First Inaugural Address, 1861

"I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished." ---Franklin D. Roosevelt, Second Inaugural Address, 1937

"The world is very different now...And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forefathers fought are still at issue around the globe -- the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God...Let every nation, whether it wishes us well or ill know we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty." ---John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, 1961

Inauguration 20 Questions Trivia—100 points possible

Use resources to help you find the answers to each question below. Then, add more of your own questions and answers to the list and use them to create an "Inauguration Trivia" game that the class will play. Each student must submit 10 questions with answers and source of answer notated in italics. Students will choose a team of four and challenge other teams in the Inauguration Quiz Bowl. A round will consist of ten questions. The chance to answer will rotate back and forth. If a team gets the answer wrong or passes, the question will pass to their opponent. Whoever gets the most questions correct will win that round. Both partnerships will retain the points that they won. The victor will be able to continue to challenge other teams until all questions are asked.

Questions: 20 points for answers to Q below (2 per Q) 40 points for original Q (4 points per Q). Possible quiz bowl points up 40 points accumulated =100 point assignment.

1. Which president gave the shortest inaugural address? Who gave the longest?
2. Who was the first vice-president to assume the presidency due to the death of a president?
3. In whose inaugural parade did African-Americans participate for the first time?
4. Who was the first president who had his mother present at his inauguration?
5. Which president had the oath of office administered to him by his father?
6. Whose inauguration was the first to be televised?
7. Who was the only president to take the oath of office aboard an airplane?
8. Who was the first and only President to walk from his inauguration at the Capitol to his residence?
9. Who was the only President not sworn in with a Bible?
10. Name a President and his Vice-President from different political parties.

Inauguration Rituals—100 points

Assignment: There are many different traditions that the country has passed down over the years from taking the Oath of Office on a Bible to redecorating the Oval Office (on the afternoon and evening of January 20) and designing a new carpet for each new administration to a President leaving a letter to his successor as his last act in the Oval Office. Whether it is poems written for

the ceremony, ball gowns designed, parades, presidential pardons granted, etc., the country assigns value to the ceremonies which sometimes amount to the pomp of a coronation. Why are the rituals important (or are they)? With a partner, prepare a presentation with visual aids, at least 15 minutes in length on a ritual of your choice due to present on Monday. Speech rubric will be used for grading.

Written Assignment #3 Inaugural Address and Reflection—Final Project—300 points

After reading Peggy Noonan's book, *What I Saw at the Revolution*, each student will write the Inaugural Address for the new POTUS in Senator McCain or Senator Obama's voice. What message will the POTUS deliver to the nation and to the world. Length may vary to be determined by you on how long the new President will speak. Senator Obama and Senator McCain speak at approximately 125 words per minute which is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page double spaced. Double spaced, 12 point font. **Due Jan. 14 at noon before boarding the bus to Chicago Union Station.** Print a hard copy to be circulated to your outbound discussion group. Both the speech rubric and the writing rubric will be used to grade the speech. Please staple a copy of each form to the speech for submission. 100 points

On the train from Chicago to Washington, D.C., outbound students in groups of four-six will read to each other their Inaugural Address and discuss why they wrote the message that they did as the speechwriter to the President-Elect.

After the actual Inaugural Address is delivered by the new President, on the train ride back to Chicago (inbound), each student will analyze the real address and compare it to the one that they wrote. Make certain that you have a copy of the actual address from the newspaper in its entirety. Groups of four-six students on the train will discuss each other's addresses. The group should be different from the group that was outbound. How were the speeches different? How did you determine the speaker's tone? What did you do to capture the POTUS voice? How close did you predict the actual message and theme? Due Jan 23 by 5 pm to MLN by depositing the paper in the box outside of 421 Hoffmann.

Reflection—Historical Moment—100 points

Write a reflective essay in which you describe what it meant to be part of a historical moment. 12 point font. 2-5 pages. This paper is due by **5 pm January 21**. The hotel has a printer in the Business Center that they will allow you to use.

Exam—100 points over texts, lectures, discussions, and peer presentations.

Discussions/Attendance/Participation—100 points

Peer critiques—All paper and oral presentations must be peer critiqued before they are submitted. Each student must do a minimum of five peer evaluations at 10 points each. 50 points. This will be part of the participation points. This is a condensed class. One day missing from class is equivalent to a week of classes. No more than one unexcused absence will be allowed.

Students are strongly urged to use the Writing Center when on campus. Students may take their laptops with them to DC for work at the Marriott Residence Inn at Pentagon City where there is internet access and on the train where there will not be access.