

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester II Year 81-82

| <u>COURSE NO.</u> | <u>COURSE TITLE</u> | <u>INSTRUCTOR</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 300 | Art and Science of History | Archdeacon |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

My goal in History 300 is to teach students how to operate the university's computers and to help them use this knowledge to investigate several important developments and events in American history. Freshmen who have taken one or more history courses and all students with sophomore or higher standing are welcome. The course is especially designed to be unthreatening to students in the humanities and social sciences. It does not require special math aptitude or skills. It is not a statistics course, though the ideas behind statistical arguments will be explained.

At the beginning of the course the students will read Stephan Thernstrom's The Other Bostonians. The data he examined for this project will be available to us and I plan to use it to show students how to operate the UNIVAC 1100 computer. For the remainder of the course the students will investigate the presidential election of 1960 and 1980, which, respectively, brought John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan to the White House. Under my guidance the students will use the computer in an effort to discern what motivated voters to make their choices in these contents

LECTURES

yes

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

There will be two mid-term exams and an end-term. Each exam will have equal weight but special consideration will be given to students who show improvement during the semester. Students seeking the optional fourth credit will do an extra assignment. For them the three tests and the special assignment will each count for one-quarter of the final grade.

GRADING SYSTEM

A-F

REQUIRED READINGS

Stephan Thernstrom, The Other Bostonians
William H. White, The Making of the President, 1960.
Austin Ranney, The American Elections of 1980.