

Department of History
University of Wisconsin

History 600

Spring, 2006

Professor Sharpless

jbsharpl@facstaff.wisc.edu

THE SEMINAR TOPICS:

This undergraduate seminar will look at the definition and consequences of “political scandals” in political history. We will examine the role of political opposition groups, the effect of media; social mores and attitudes about corruption and governance; and, finally, attempt to answer the question: Do political scandals, in the long run, make any difference in the political histories of nations?

Some of our case studies will be:

The public & private lives of Burr, Hamilton & Jefferson (USA, c. 1800)
The Grant Administration (USA, 1860s & '70s)
The Parnell-O'Shea Scandal (Ireland, 1890s)
The Dreyfus Affair (France, 1890s)
The Rusputin Scandal (Russia, 1904-16)
The Harding Administration (USA, 1920s)
The Profumo-Keeler Affair (Britain, 1963)
The Munsinger Affair (Canada, 1960-63)
The Nixon Administration (USA, 1970s)
The Reagan Administration (USA, 1980s)
The Clinton Administration (USA, 1990s)

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

We will meet one day a week for two hours. Attendance is required.

I want to be absolutely clear about the attendance requirement: No more than one absences will be allowed – one excused (notice must be given at least two days before class). Failure to attend regularly will result in a grade of “F,” regardless of your performance on the various assignments over the term.

Each (and every) week there will be a short written assignment to insure that the reading is completed on time. The assignments will vary in length from short summaries of the readings (2-3 pages) to short analytical essays (5-10 pages) to the occasional longer paper (10-12 pages) requiring some outside research. These short written assignments must be completed by class-time. No exceptions.

The seminar situation requires that everyone be prepared to participate in the discussion. Although it is not mandatory that each student has something to contribute each week, regular participation is assumed to be a minimum prerequisite for a good grade.

Occasionally, we will have the week's discussion lead by a “discussion team” whose primary responsibility will be to guide our deliberations. They may be required to do extra reading/research in preparing for that week's session.

Finally, there may be a longer research paper (20 - 30 pages) due the last week of the term. It will be an extension of one of the weekly papers already completed.

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Application for Special Permission to Enroll

A seminar makes little sense if there are too many people to allow for a true discussion. History 600 is set for a limit of 15. If you sign-up for the course, you should intend to complete it. Don't take-up a valuable space, then later drop the course.

In addition to completing this form, you must meet with me to discuss your responsibilities in the course.

At some point, the limit on the class will be reached. At that point, students will be placed on the waiting list. If openings occur, I will inform each seceding person on the list via email. If you do not respond immediately, the next person on the list will be given a chance to enroll.

Please complete the following information and return the form to me as soon as possible (4110 Humanities or *jbsharpl@wisc.edu*).

Name _____.

Student ID # _____.

Email address (**PRINT CLEARLY, PLEASE**):

Anticipated Graduate Date _____.

Major: _____.

Are you already on my History 600 "Waiting List?" _____.

When is the best time/day to meet with me?

Are there graduation requirements that make this particular class absolutely necessary? Be specific.

Does your work schedule **REQUIRE** that you take this particular course this term?

Are there any special considerations that should be noted in judging whether you admitted to the class? (Use the backside of the form if necessary.)

Did you contact me last term about being admitted to the class? By email, phone or "face-to-face"?