

**Political Science 305-002**  
**Creative Inquiry: Preaching from the Bully Pulpit**  
**Clemson University**  
**Fall 2009**

**Dr. Warber**

Office: 231A Brackett  
Phone: 656-1828  
Email: [awarber@clemson.edu](mailto:awarber@clemson.edu)  
Office Hours: MT 1:00 pm-5:00 pm  
or by appointment

**Dr. Olson**

Office: 230G Brackett  
Phone: 656-1457  
Email: [laurao@clemson.edu](mailto:laurao@clemson.edu)  
Office Hours: TTH 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
or by appointment

We are conducting research for a book project that requires a significant amount of data collection and analysis. This semester you will have the opportunity to be part of this data-gathering process.

Our project seeks to analyze ways in which presidents strategically employ religious rhetoric. We are principally concerned with the question of whether and how the use of religious rhetoric by modern presidents has varied over time. Specifically, we are focusing on the nature and frequency of religious rhetoric that comprises the public speeches and statements made by modern presidents from Jimmy Carter through the George W. Bush administration. This semester, we will begin working on the rhetoric of Jimmy Carter.

You will be helping us to identify statements containing religious rhetoric in official presidential statements. We will be recording presidents' uses of specific religious keywords and thinking about the specific contexts within which particular presidents used religious rhetoric.

This semester you will learn:

- How to collect data for an original research project.
- How to undertake content analysis.
- How to apply content analysis to political science.
- How to analyze and interpret the results from data analyses.
- How to use government documents to analyze important research questions in political science.
- The core research questions and literature about the influence of religion on the American presidency.
- How to think more critically about political science research.

## Content Analysis Materials

All of the materials for this course (coding sheets, paper, pens, binder clips, Post-It notes, etc.) are located in the Department of Political Science's main office. You will find them on the bottom shelf of the bookcase that is located off to the side in front of the administrative assistant's desk.

## Grades

Grading will follow this scale: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below.

### Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

Attendance and participation at group meetings	10%
Your work on the content analysis research project	80%
Research project essay*	10%

\* Your research project essay will be due by 5:00 PM on Friday, December 4. It should be 1-2 pages in length. Email your essays (in Microsoft Word format) to [awarber@clemson.edu](mailto:awarber@clemson.edu) or [laurao@clemson.edu](mailto:laurao@clemson.edu).

In your essay, you should reflect on what you learned over the course of the semester, emphasizing any patterns you noticed in the presidential rhetoric you coded.

## Research Team Members

Clarkin, Lauren	<a href="mailto:lclarki@clemson.edu">lclarki@clemson.edu</a>
Edwards, Trey	<a href="mailto:wedward@clemson.edu">wedward@clemson.edu</a>
Linton, Meagan	<a href="mailto:mlinton@clemson.edu">mlinton@clemson.edu</a>
Rice, Toni	<a href="mailto:trr@clemson.edu">trr@clemson.edu</a>
Rossi, Christina	<a href="mailto:crossi@clemson.edu">crossi@clemson.edu</a>
Schultz, Zachary	<a href="mailto:zschult@clemson.edu">zschult@clemson.edu</a>
Yongue, Jonathan	<a href="mailto:jyongue@clemson.edu">jyongue@clemson.edu</a>
Zinger, Jonathon	<a href="mailto:jzinger@clemson.edu">jzinger@clemson.edu</a>

## Research Schedule

### **Weeks 1-2: August 19-28**

Develop meeting schedules for the semester

### **Week 3: August 31-September 4**

*New Team Members:* Read Warber and Olson's conference paper "Religion and Ronald Reagan's Rhetorical Presidency"

*Veteran Team Members:* Content analysis training sessions (TBA)

### **Week 4: September 7-11**

*New Team Members:* Content analysis training session: Monday, September 7, 12:30 pm-1:45 pm, 234 Brackett and Wednesday, September 9, 12:15 pm-1:30 pm, 234 Brackett

*Veteran Team Members:* Content analysis training sessions (TBA)

### **Week 5: September 14-18**

*New Team Members:* Content analysis training session: Wednesday, September 16, 12:15 pm-1:30 pm, meet at the main entrance of Cooper Library.

*Veteran Team Members:* Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, September 18.

### **Week 6: September 21-25**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, September 25.

### **Week 7: September 28-October 2**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, October 2.

**Week 8: October 5-9**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, October 9.

**Week 9: October 12-16**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, October 16.

**Week 10: October 19-23**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, October 23.

**Week 11: October 26-30**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, October 30.

**Week 12: November 2-6**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, November 6.

**Week 13: November 9-13**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, November 13.

**Week 14: November 16-20**

Coding of presidential rhetoric (follow individual assignments). Coding sheets are due in Dr. Warber's mailbox by 4:30 pm on Friday, November 20.

**Week 15: November 23-27**

No coding this week—Thanksgiving break

**Week 16: November 30-December 4**

- Group meeting, time and place TBA
- Research Project Essay Due on Friday, December 4

**\* There may be other times during the semester when we will need to schedule a group meeting if issues about the coding process arise.**