

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

17.28/21H.213J

The War at Home: American Politics and Society in Wartime

Professors Adam Berinsky, Christopher Capozzola

Spring 2016

This subject examines the relationship between war and domestic politics in the United States since the beginning of the twentieth century. Students engage in historical and social scientific research to analyze the ways that overseas military commitments shaped U.S. political institutions, and how domestic politics has in turn structured American engagements abroad. Moving chronologically from World War I to the Iraq War, subject draws on materials across the disciplines, including political documents, opinion polls, legal decisions, and products of American popular culture.

Requirements: The success of this class depends on the active participation of all students. **Classroom participation (20%)** represents a substantial portion of the grade, and will be evaluated in terms of preparation, participation in discussion, active listening, collaboration, and overall contributions to the class experience during the term. A portion of the participation grade will be based on the **final presentations** for the projects due at the end of term. You are expected to attend every class session, prepared to discuss the issues raised in the readings. There are no midterm or final examinations in this class, but you must receive a passing grade on every portion of the class in order to pass the class as a whole.

Writing Assignments: Everyone will write **regular response papers (10%)**, **two 4-pp. essays (15% each)** and a **final paper of 12-14pp. (30%)** on a topic that will be worked out with the instructors during the semester. In addition to the final project, various **preparatory writing exercises (10%)** will help you develop a topic, source material, a bibliography, and an argument in advance of the final paper itself.

Response Papers: Each week, about four students will be required to write a short essay responding to the week's readings, no longer than two single-spaced pages. These essays should engage the week's readings, by, for example, doing one or more of the following: juxtaposing and commenting on alternative explanations or approaches to a substantive topic; criticizing the methodologies used and proposing other strategies of research; criticizing the conceptualization and/or measurement of a particular construct; analyzing the implications of a set of findings; suggesting new questions or hypotheses for research; developing similarities and contrasts with arguments or research found in the readings from previous weeks. More generally, *these papers should contain an argument, not a summary or description of the readings.* These papers should be circulated to

instructors and class participants by 5:00pm on the Sunday before the scheduled Monday meeting (or earlier). These essays will serve as the starting point for our discussion; they will be returned with comments after the class session.

Adherence to standards of academic honesty is required; if you have any questions about how to go about your writing or cite your sources, don't hesitate to ask. A selection of valuable information can be found under the Writing Resources link on the class website.

Books: Required books are available at the MIT Coop; copies of all required books have also been placed on reserve at Dewey Library. To keep class costs down, many of the readings are available through the Stellar site. Readings should be completed *before* the class under which they appear, unless otherwise stated. All films will be screened during class hours.

Contacting Us: Professor Capozzola can be reached by phone at (617) 452-4960 or by email at capozzol@mit.edu. His office hours are Wed. 10:00-11:30am or by appointment. Professor Berinsky can best be reached by email at berinsky@mit.edu. His office hours are by appointment.

Class Website: <http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/17/sp16/17.28/>.

**** COURSE OUTLINE ****

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION: WHO DECIDES?

Monday February 8

VIEWING: *Wag the Dog* (1997).

WEEK 2 WORLD WAR I

Tuesday February 16

NOTE: MIT meets on a Monday schedule today. We will have class.

READING: Christopher Capozzola, *Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern American Citizen* (2008), pp. 3-54, 83-116, 173-214.

Susan A. Brewer, *Why America Fights: Patriotism and Propaganda from the Philippines to Iraq* (2009), pp. 276-285. [electronic reserve]

WEEK 3 WHEN WAR COMES

Monday February 22

READING: Adam J. Berinsky, *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* (2009), pp. 1-9.

Julian E. Zelizer, *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security from World War II to the War on Terrorism* (2010), pp. 1-8.

Hadley Cantril, *The Invasion from Mars: A Study in the Psychology of Panic* (1947), pp. vii-xiv, 47-63, 111-124, 189-205. [electronic reserve]

“Terror by Radio,” *New York Times*, November 1, 1938, p. 22. [electronic reserve]

LISTENING: Orson Welles, *The War of the Worlds* (1938). [electronic reserve]

Friday February 26

WRITING: FIRST PAPER due by 5:00pm.

WEEK 4 WORLD WAR II: WHY WE JOINED

Monday February 29

READING: Adam J. Berinsky, *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* (2009), pp. 33-57.

Steven Casey, *Cautious Crusade: Franklin D. Roosevelt, American Public Opinion, and the War against Nazi Germany* (2001), pp. xvii-xxvi, 3-45. [electronic reserve]

Henry R. Luce, “The American Century” (1941) in John K. Jessup, ed., *The Ideas of Henry Luce* (1969), pp. 105-120. [electronic reserve]

WEEK 5 WORLD WAR II: WHY WE FOUGHT

Monday March 7

READING: Adam J. Berinsky, *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* (2009), pp. 85-100, 134-148.

Richard H. Minear, *Dr. Seuss Goes to War: The World War II Editorial Cartoons of Theodor Seuss Geisel* (1999), pp. 183-194 and selected additional cartoons. [electronic reserve]

John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (1986), pp. 234-261, and selected additional cartoons. [electronic reserve]

WEEK 6 WORLD WAR II: WHAT WE LEARNED

Monday March 14

READING: Adam J. Berinsky, *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* (2009), pp. 149-151.

James T. Sparrow, *Warfare State: World War II Americans and the Age of Big Government* (2011), pp. 1-15, 78-159, 236-241, 261-264. [electronic reserve]

Friday March 18

WRITING: SECOND PAPER due by 5:00pm.

Monday March 21

Spring Break. No class.

WEEK 7 KOREA AND THE COLD WAR

Monday March 28

READING: Mary L. Dudziak, *War Time: An Idea, Its History, Its Consequences* (2012), pp. 1-94.

Julian E. Zelizer, *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security from World War II to the War on Terrorism* (2010), pp. 60-80, 97-120.

Additional short reading based on group assignments for class exercise that day.

WEEK 8 WHY WERE WE IN VIETNAM?

Monday April 4

READING: Mark Atwood Lawrence, *The Vietnam War: A Concise International History* (2008), pp. 67-114. [electronic reserve]

Julian E. Zelizer, *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security from World War II to the War on Terrorism* (2010), pp. 178-202.

John E. Mueller, "Trends in Popular Support for the Wars in Korea and Vietnam." *American Political Science Review* 65 (June 1971): 358-375. [electronic reserve]

Adam J. Berinsky, *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* (2009), pp. 61-84.

WEEK 9 VIETNAM: THE LEGACIES

Monday April 11

READING: Julian E. Zelizer, *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security from World War II to the War on Terrorism* (2010), pp. 203-272.

Beth Bailey, "The Army in the Marketplace: Recruiting the All-Volunteer Force." *Journal of American History* 94 (June 2007): 47-74. [electronic reserve]

Stephen E. Fienberg, "Randomization and Social Affairs: The 1970 Draft Lottery." *Science* 171 (January 22, 1971): 255-261. [electronic reserve]

Monday April 18

Patriots Day. No class.

WEEK 10 9/11 AND AFTER

Monday April 25

READING: Julian E. Zelizer, *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security from World War II to the War on Terrorism* (2010), pp. 355-406.

Mary L. Dudziak, *War Time: An Idea, Its History, Its Consequences* (2012), pp. 95-137.

Shana Kushner Gadarian, "The Politics of Threat: How Terrorism News Shapes Foreign Policy Attitudes." *Journal of Politics* 72 (April 2010): 469-483. [electronic reserve]

WEEK 11 IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND BEYOND

Monday May 2

READING: Adam J. Berinsky, *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* (2009), pp. 101-110.

Julian E. Zelizer, *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security from World War II to the War on Terrorism* (2010), pp. 468-507.

Additional short readings tba.

WEEK 12 CONCLUSIONS

Monday May 9

READING: Adam J. Berinsky, *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq* (2009), pp. 1-9. [re-read]

Julian E. Zelizer, *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security from World War II to the War on Terrorism* (2010), pp. 1-8. [re-read]

WRITING: FINAL PAPER due at the beginning of class today.

FINAL PRESENTATIONS during class today.