

PLSC 497A, Politics in France  
Prof. Baumgartner  
Your name here  
February 27, 2008

### **Paper assignment for Wednesday February 27, 2008.**

This document is both a set of instructions for your paper and a template for what the paper should look like. In fact, you should use this document to write your paper. Save this word file as a new file with the name: "PLSC497\_paper2\_yourlastname.doc." Delete all the text, add your name up top, replace the title with your own title, write your paper, and email it to Baumgartner before class on February 27. Also bring a printed copy. I will keep an electronic copy on file, and it's possible that I'll give you comments in track-changes. Anyway, I want electronic copies of all your papers.

Note that this paper uses A-level headings. Get used to that. You may also want to use B-level headings (e.g., sub-heads). Pay attention to presenting your paper as professionally as possible, including writing well, which means spelling and grammar.

OK, here's the assignment; you will have similar assignments for papers 3 and 4 (note that this assignment differs from the one on the syllabus):

Pick one of the books in the list of suggested readings, or else email Baumgartner before February 25 to get his ok on another book (for example, you might find other books giving the history of a particular party in France, an overview of a certain election, or some study of a particular public policy area such as education or health care or agriculture; such things would be fine if the topic interests you). Using that book as the basis of your comparison, describe the French approach or situation with regards to whatever politically relevant topic your book is about. Do additional reading, in your text, on line, or in additional sources, to lay out a detailed description of *a single aspect* of French politics. You might spend about 3-4 pages on this

descriptive material, so you can go into some detail about it. At the end, discuss why the French approach to the question is the way you describe; that may come from your readings as well. Finally, in the last few paragraphs, evaluate the French approach compared to the situation in the US.

Total length of the paper, 5 pages plus references.

Note that I'll want to make sure that in papers 2, 3 and 4 for this course you cover a range of topics, so as you pick a book or topic for this paper, keep in mind that you'll be doing 3 similar papers, but on different topics, so you can plan ahead.