Students in this course will engage in what amounts to a reading/textual and a "hands-on" experience of the political/presidential election process. They will be asked to self-form into groups according to presidential candidates of their choice, and will thereafter be expected to research and to remain current with the ideas and the agenda of their respective candidates. Groups are also expected to shed light on the implications of the presidential positions they adopt, and to debate the merits of the ideas and the agenda that those positions involve, both directly and, for this class, by computer conferencing.

The groups will meet as a class once a week for two hours, at which times both Republican and Democratic analysts will be invited to speak on voting patterns and presidential elections since the 1960's and on presidential primaries as they take place during the course of the semester. Note: When this course was last offered in 1984 a number of students found that trips to and working the Iowa caucuses were valuable experiences.