POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTIONS, FALL 2012

# INTERPRETING THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**ONE LAST TIME**

Nelson chapter 9 (Mayhew)

Monday, November 5

**Chapter 9 terms**: evidence for the idea that U.S. presidential election results are essentially balanced between the two major parties; 2008 as an equilibrating election; “crushed by the crash”; how Obama 2008 compares to Kennedy 1960 (race v. religion in Figure 9-1); the role of luck in the 2008 election

1. What is Mayhew’s perspective on:

* Why Obama won
* What these election results mean
* What could be expected in an Obama presidency
* How the Republicans could recover from the 2008 defeat

2. We are one day away from Election Day. How do the conclusions in this chapter stand up, nearly four years later?

x. Ask your 2008-related question here!