“Primary Colors” [1998, directed by Mike Nichols] and stars John Travolta, Emma Thompson, and Adrian Lester [the last two are British…can one tell?].

On may use the film as a point of departure for addressing such things as American values, the electoral process [the film is about the primary campaign to get a party’s presidential nomination], the media [worse now with the Internet?], public opinion issues, private and public morality, leadership skills, and/or similar elements. Are there good guys and bad guys in the film?

The film, and the novel on which the film is based, are derived from the Clintons and the dynamic of the 1992 campaign for the Democratic nomination. Consider elements of historical sociology: What is different now from 1992 and/or 1998, when the film came out in the context of the Monica Lewinsky scandal? Have the years—and such events as those of September 11, 2001—made the film less relevant? Were there not events in recent campaigns that were on the darker side? Can one be a “fan” of Bill Clinton while still seeing his serious flaws? With distance, does the film seem less about the Clintons and more about us? On the other hand, Ms. Clinton [and her husband] are still front and center in American life.