

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3011-001

The American Presidency

Fall 2009

Dr. L. McNow

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303/492-3998

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 12:00-1:00
Wednesday, 3:00-4:00

Class meets

Mon/Wed/Fri 11:00-11:50

Hellums 201

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:30

Although the American system of government was designed as a "republic," the best description of it today is as a "presidential system" of government. In this course we will explore the historical foundations, development, and institutionalization of the presidency. The Constitutional evolution of the office will be examined. And, we will study the Presidency as it relates to the system of separation of powers.

The first section of the course will begin with an examination of the historical basis for the presidency. Particular attention will be paid to the conception of the presidency as created by the Framers. The evolution of presidential power will be emphasized.

The second section of the course will focus on the more public aspects of the presidency. We will first discuss the nomination, financing, and election of the president. This will be followed by an examination of such issues as the relation between the president and the public, the media, and the concept of the personalized presidency. We will monitor the performance of the Obama administration. We will also explore the institutionalization of the presidency in this section. The evolution of the Executive Office of the President will merit particular attention.

The final section will study the presidency in relation to other institutions, particularly the Congress and the Judiciary. A case study of Watergate will be presented. This episode will be discussed as a test of separation of powers theory. This case study will also allow an examination of presidential leadership and personality.

BOOKS AND READING--There are four required books to purchase for this course. They are:

Pika, Joseph A. And Maltese, John Anthony, *The Politics of the Presidency*, seventh edition, 2008.

Pfiffner, James P. and Davidson, Roger H., eds., *Understanding the Presidency*, fifth edition, 2009.

Wayne, Stephen J. *Road to the White House 2008*, 2008.

Nelson, Michael, ed. *The Evolving Presidency*, third edition, 2008.

It is also suggested that you refer to a style manual in the preparation of your paper. You may wish to purchase:

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*.

These books are available at the University Bookstore and the Colorado Bookstore. **It is also expected that students will read a daily newspaper such as the *New York Times* in order to keep abreast of developments in the presidency.**

EXAMINATIONS--Two exams and one final examination will be given. Examinations will be composed of essay and short essay questions. Examinations will cover lecture and reading assignments. Essay questions in particular will ask for a synthesis of information from the various sources including texts, lecture, and current events. Students are expected to communicate their knowledge in well written essays.

NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL BE GIVEN. If a mid-term examination is missed **FOR ANY REASON** an additional, take home section of the final exam will be required. This section will be comprehensive and seek a mastery of the major themes of the course.

The additional section of the final may also be used to attempt to raise the course grade. If a student is dissatisfied with a mid-term grade s/he may choose to complete this section of the final. If the grade for the optional section is higher than the midterm grade it will replace the midterm grade. This take-home assignment will be assigned on December 4 and due, at the final, on December 12.

You must turn in three blank examination books. These blue books will be redistributed with your midterms and final exam.

EXAM DATES:

Exam I --September 25.

Exam II --October 30.

Final Exam-- Saturday December 12, 4:30-7:00 pm.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

There are two types of required written assignments for this class.

Critical Essay: You will be required to write one critical essay this semester based on an academic article relating to course material. An article will be assigned in each of the three sections of the course and you may choose which assignment to complete. If you write two essays the lowest grade will be dropped. The paper will require a synthesis of knowledge of lecture and class reading as related to a specific example of presidential action. Specific information relating to expectations will be provided at the time of the first assigned paper. No late papers will be accepted. All papers must be in hard copy. No electronic papers will be accepted.

CRITICAL ESSAY DATES:

	Assigned	Due
Essay I	September 11	September 18
Essay II	October 9	October 16
Essay III	November 13	November 20

Event Analyses: One of the assigned books, *Understanding the Presidency*, presents articles on various topics related to the Presidency. For each of the three sections of the course a paper will be assigned on one of these articles. Your task will be to take the information presented in that article and use it to analyze a recent event that relates to that theme. You must complete two of these analyses. If you complete three analyses the lowest grade will be dropped. You may not receive credit for both Analysis 3a and Analysis 3b. Detailed instructions will be provided at the time of the first assignment. All papers must be in hard copy. No electronic papers will be accepted.

EVENT ANALYSES DATES:

	Assigned	Due
Analysis 1	September 4	September 11
Analysis 2	October 2	October 9
Analysis 3a	November 6	November 13
Analysis 3b	November 20	December 4

GRADING--Exams and the paper will be assigned the following weights:

Exam I -- 20%

Exam II -- 20%

Critical Review -- 15%

Two Event Analyses each worth 10% -- 20%

Final Exam -- 25%

Course Schedule

WEEK OF:	TOPIC:	READING:	ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS, AND COMMENTS:
August 24	Introduction, The Creation of the Presidency/Enumerated Powers	Pika and Maltese, ch. 1 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 1, 2, 3,4,13,41	
August 31	Theories and Practices of a Constitutional Presidency	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #6,12, 14, 20 Pfiffner and Davidson, #17	Analysis #1 assigned September 4.
September 7	Growth in Presidential Power/Inherent Powers	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #4, 5, 24, 26,29	Analysis # 1 due, in class on September 11. Essay # 1 assigned September 11.
September 14	Presidential War Powers/Foreign Policy Prerogatives	Pika and Maltese, ch.11 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #10, 31, 32, 35, 38, 45, 51 Pfiffner and Davidson, #36	Essay #1 due, in class, September 18.
September 21	Are Undefined Powers also Unlimited?	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #29	Exam #1 September 25.
September 28	Presidential Nominations and Election	Wayne, ch. 1,4,5 Pika and Maltese, ch. 2 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 37 Pfiffner and Davidson #12, 13	Analysis #2 assigned October 2.
October 5	Campaign Finance	Wayne, ch. 2, pp. 350-354 Pfiffner and Davidson, #14	Analysis #2 due, in class, October 9. Essay #2 assigned October 9.
October 12	The Electoral College/ Election 2000 After the Election	Wayne, all pages in index under "Electoral College." Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #49 Pfiffner and Davidson, #5, 15, 16, 32	Essay #2 due, in class, October 16.

October 19	The Presidency and the Media	Wayne, ch. 8 Pika and Maltese, ch. 3 Pfiffner and Davidson, #19,20,22	
October 26	The Presidential Institution	Pika and Maltese, ch. 6 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #23, 25, 28 Pfiffner and Davidson, #25, 26	Exam #2 October 30.
November 2	The President and Congress	Pika and Maltese, ch. 5 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #1, 13, 44, 47 Pfiffner and Davidson, #28,29	Analysis #3a assigned November 6.
November 9	The President and the Court/The President and the Bureaucracy	Pika and Maltese, ch 7 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #1, 27 Pfiffner and Davidson, #31	Analysis # 3a due, in class, November 13. Essay #3 assigned November 13.
November 16	A test of presidential powers and separation of powers--Watergate	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #1, 18, 39, 40, 48 Pfiffner and Davidson, #42	Essay #3 due, in class, November 20. Analysis #3b assigned November 20.
November 23			<i>Fall Break</i>
November 30	Presidential Powers in the 21 st Century. The Bush Presidency	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #52,53 Pfiffner and Davidson, #21, 30, 43, 44	Analysis #3b due, in class, on December 4. Take-home portion of final assigned December 4. The take-home portion is due at the final exam on December 12.
December 7	Presidential Leadership and Personality / Presidential Greatness Revisited	Pika and Maltese, ch. 4 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #15, 24, 31, 34, 42 Pfiffner and Davidson, #46	

Final Exam, Saturday, December 12, 4:30-7:00 pm

(1) If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to

me a letter from Disability Services before the fourth week of classes so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

(2) Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you must inform the instructor of religious obligations two weeks in advance of a conflict.

(3) Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

(4) The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

(5) All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>