

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3011-880**  
**The American Presidency**  
**Fall 2009**

LIBR N424A  
Mon/Wed/Fri 2:00-2:50

Dr. Lauri McNown  
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Monday/Wednesday 12:00-1:00  
Wednesday 3:00-4:00  
303/492-3998

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 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. This blueprint will be compared to the development of presidential powers.

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 as well as an examination of the theories of presidential personality.

The relationship between the President and Congress as well as the institutionalization of the presidency will be explored. The evolution of the Executive Office of the President will merit particular attention.

Finally, a series of case studies will be explored to illustrate the concepts which will have been examined throughout the semester. We will begin with an in-depth examination of the Watergate affair with special emphasis on how this helped to define and shape presidential powers. This in-depth examination will be followed by presentation of case-studies on a variety of topics by members of the class.

**BOOKS AND READINGS**--There are four required texts to purchase for this course.

Pika, Joseph and Maltese, John, *The Politics of the Presidency*, 7th ed., CQ Press, 2008.

Nelson, Michael, *The Presidency and the Political System*, 8th Edition, 2006.

Stephen Wayne, *The Road to the White House* 2008, Thomson Wadsworth, 2007.

Nelson, Michael, ed. *The Evolving Presidency*, 3rd ed, CQ Press, 2008.

In addition you should purchase:

Hacker, Diana, *A Pocket Style Manual*.

These books are available at the University Bookstore.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**PAPERS**--This course will require a substantial amount of writing. Three, three to five page papers are required. These papers include various types of assignments from a critical review of an academic article, an analysis of a current event and applications of theories studied in class. Specific guidelines will be provided in class. Four such papers are assigned. You may elect not to write one of the papers or drop your lowest grade if you write all four. You may re-write any of these papers. Re-written papers will be due one week after the original has been returned to you. You will receive an average of the grades received on the original and the re-written papers. The final paper, a case study, will be an eight to ten page paper.

**EXAMINATION**--A take-home final will be assigned the last week of class and will be due at the time of the final exam.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**--On-time attendance is expected at every class session. You are expected to speak with the instructor if a class is missed. Informed and relevant participation is required of all students. **Deficiencies in attendance or participation will affect the final grade.**

Every participant in this class (students and instructor alike) is expected to strive to maintain an environment that is conducive to learning. Positive participation is expected. Some students will need to work on speaking, some will need to work on listening. Regardless, a respect for others' opinions is imperative in this class.

## **GRADING**--

Three, three to five page papers, 15% each	45%
Case study	25%
Take-home final	20%
Participation	10%
	<hr/> 100%

## Course Schedule

WEEK OF:	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENTS AND COMMENTS
Aug 24	Studying the Presidency/ Foundations of the Office	Wednesday-- <i>The Presidency and the Political System</i> , (hereafter referred to as Nelson), #1 and Rudalevige, Andrew, "The Contemporary Presidency," <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> , September 2006.  Friday--Pika and Maltese, ch. 1. <i>Evolving Presidency</i> , 1-3.	Throughout the semester additional readings may be assigned as hand-outs or on the internet. It is strongly suggested that students read the <i>New York Times</i> and/or other leading news sources.  Typically readings require a reading response, submitted via e-mail due by noon before class.
Aug 31	The Constitutional Presidency and Enumerated Powers	Monday--Nelson, # 3  Wed & Fri-- <i>Evolving Presidency</i> , # 13, 41 plus individual research	For Monday bring in a newspaper or magazine article and a one page written description of how it illustrates a point in the readings thus far.  Wednesday and Friday--Individual short reports based on independent research as assigned on enumerated powers.
Sep 7	The Growth in Presidential Power/Inherent Power	<i>Evolving Presidency</i> , #5,6,12,14,20,24,26,29,	<b>Writing Assignment I:</b> Short Reaction paper assigned Sep 11. Due Sep 18.  No class, Monday, Sep 7.
Sep 14	The Presidential Prerogative	Mon-- <i>Evolving Presidency</i> #26 Handout (Wildavsky)  Wed--- <i>Evolving Presidency</i> #29	<b>Writing Assignment I:</b> <b>Due Sep 18.</b>
Sep 21	Presidential War Powers	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #10, 31, 32, 35, 38, 45, 51  Nelson, #21  Pika and Maltese, ch. 11	<b>Writing Assignment II:</b> Critical review of an academic article assigned Sep 25. Due Oct 2.
Sep 28	Presidential War Powers, cont.	Reading to be assigned.	<b>Writing Assignment II:</b> <b>Due Oct 2.</b>
Oct 5	Presidential Elections Historical Background Candidate Selection	Mon--Wayne ch. 1,3 <i>Evolving</i> , #37 Wed--Wayne ch. 4, 5 Nelson, # 7	<b>Case Study Proposal Due Oct 9</b>

<b>Oct 12</b>	Presidential Elections, Finance The Election	Monday-Wayne ch. 2. Pike and Maltese, ch. 2  Thur-Wayne, ch. 6, 8, 9. Nelson, #10,11 <i>Evolving</i> , #48	<b>Writing Assignment III:</b> Analysis of recent event using academic literature assigned Oct 16. Due Oct 21.
<b>Oct 19</b>	The President and Congress	Pika and Maltese, ch. 5 Nelson, #17, 19	<b>Writing Assignment III:</b> <b>Due Oct 23.</b>
<b>Oct 26</b>	The President and the Judiciary	Pika and Maltese, ch. 7 Nelson, #18, additional reading as assigned.	<b>Writing Assignment IV:</b> Assigned Oct 30. Due Nov 6.
<b>Nov 2</b>	Class choice of topics: Media, Personality and Leadership, the Presidential Institution, the president and parties, interest groups, etc.	Reading will be assigned according to topics chosen.	<b>Writing Assignment IV:</b> Due Nov 6.
<b>Nov 9</b>	Class choices , cont.	Reading will be assigned according to topics chosen	<b>Case Study Prospectus due Nov 13.</b>
<b>Nov 16</b>	A Case Study of Watergate	<i>Evolving</i> , #39-41.  Plus reading to be assigned.	
<b>Nov 23</b>			<i>Fall Break</i>
<b>Nov 30</b>	Presentations of Case Studies	Reading to be assigned by presenters.	
<b>Dec 7</b>	Presentations of Case Studies  Presidential Greatness?	Reading to be assigned by presenters.  Pika and Maltese, ch. 4 Nelson, #5 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #15, 24, 31, 34, 42	December 11 • <b>Case study due, in class</b> • Take-home final assigned.
<b>Dec 14</b>	Presentations of Case Studies		Final Exam period will be used for final case study presentations.

**Final Exams will be due at the time of the regularly scheduled exam, Thursday, December 17, 10:00 am.**



## Administrative Matters

- (1) If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>
- (2) Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you are required to speak with instructor about any conflicts with this course before February 1. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)
- (3) Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such 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](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 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](mailto: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/>

