

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3011-880
The American Presidency
Spring 2012

Class Meets:

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15
LIBR N424A

Dr. Lauri McNown
Office Hours:

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:30
Thursday 3:20-4:00

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 concept of presidential powers will guide our exploration.

The first section of the course will focus on the 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

The second 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 final section will study the presidency in relation to institutions. The evolution of the Executive Office of the President will merit particular attention. The presidency and its interactions with the Congress and the Judiciary will be explored. Special attention will be paid to the question of war powers. A case study of Watergate will be presented and examined as a test of separation of powers theory. This case study will also allow an examination of presidential leadership and 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.

Stephen Wayne, *Road to the White House 2012*, CQ Press, 2011, 978-1-111-34150-3

Michael Nelson, *The Evolving Presidency*, CQ Press, 4th ed., 2012, 978-1-60871-684-5

Michael Nelson, *The Presidency and the Political System*, 9th CQ Press, 2010, 978-0-87289-964-3

Irwin Morris, *The American Presidency: An Analytical Approach*, Cambridge University Press, 2010, 978-0-521-72043-4

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 up, 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
Week 1 January 17-19	Presidential Greatness/ Presidential Elections Historical Background	Thursday-Wayne ch. 1, Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 35 Be prepared to discuss the candidates for 2012.	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 9:00 am before class.
Week 2 January 24-26	Candidate Selection	Wayne ch. 4, 5 Nelson, <i>Presidency</i> , #6 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 37	Writing Assignment I: Assigned Jan 26. Due Feb 2.
Week 3 January 31- February 2	Presidential Elections, Finance The Election	Wayne ch. 2, pp. 342-345 http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/08-205.ZS.html Also, find an article about <i>Citizen's United</i> and be prepared to present material.	Writing Assignment I: Due Feb 2.
Week 4 February 7-9	The Electoral College and other concerns	Wayne, all pages in index under "Electoral College." Wayne, ch. 10 Nelson, <i>Presidency</i> , #7 Morris, ch. 5	Writing Assignment II: Critical review of an academic article assigned Feb 9. Due Feb 16.
Week 5 February 14-16	Studying the Presidency/ Foundations of the Office	<i>Evolving Presidency</i> , 1-3. Morris, ch. 3 Reports on enumerated powers. Rudalevige, Andrew, "The Contemporary Presidency," <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> , September 2006.	Writing Assignment II: Due Feb 16.

Week 6 February 21-23	The Growth of Presidential Power/Inherent Power	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #6, 26, 29 Morris, ch. 9 pp. 204-212. Nelson, <i>Presidency</i> , #1 http://law.onecle.com/constitution/article-2/02-executive-power.html	Case Study Proposal Due Feb 23
Week 7 February 28-March 1	Theories of Presidential Power	Morris, ch. 4 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #4, 12, 14, 20, 24.	Writing Assignment III: Analysis of recent event using academic literature assigned March 1. Due March 8
Week 8 March 6-8	War Powers	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #10, 31, 32, 35, 38, 51 Nelson, <i>Presidency</i> , #17	Writing Assignment III: Due March 8.
Week 9 March 13-15	Class choice of topics: Congress, Judiciary, Media, Personality and Leadership, the Presidential Institution, the president and parties, interest groups, etc.	Reading will be assigned according to topics chosen.	Writing Assignment IV: Assigned March 15. Due March 22.
Week 10 March 20-22	Are Undefined Powers also Unlimited?	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #52, 53 Nelson, <i>Presidency</i> , #16	Writing Assignment IV: Due March 22.
			Spring Break
Week 11 April 3-5	A Case Study of Watergate	Evolving, #39-41. Plus reading to be assigned.	Case Study Prospectus due April 5
Week 12 April 10-12	A Case Study of Watergate	Evolving, #39-41. Plus reading to be assigned.	
Week 13 April 17-19	Presentations of Case Studies	Reading to be assigned by presenters.	
Week 14 April 24-26	Presentations of Case Studies	Reading to be assigned by presenters.	
	Presidential Greatness?	Morris, ch. 11	
Week 15 May 1-3	Presentations of Case Studies Presidential Greatness?	Pika and Maltese, ch. 4 Nelson, #5 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #15, 24, 31, 34, 42	May 1 Take-home final assigned. May 3 Case study due, in class

Final Exams will be due at the time of the regularly scheduled exam, Monday, May 7.