

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3011-001
The American Presidency
Spring 2012

Dr. L. McNown

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:30 am
Thursday 3:20-4:00 pm

Class meets:
Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15
Hellems 201

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-10:30 am

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 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.

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

Pfiffner, James P. *The Modern Presidency*, sixth edition, 2011.

Pfiffner James P. and Davidson, Roger H. *Understanding the Presidency*, sixth edition, 2011.

Wayne, Stephen J. *The Road to the White House 2012*, 2012.

Nelson, Michael, ed. *The Evolving Presidency*, fourth edition, 2012.

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 and the presidential election.

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 midterm 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 midterm 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 April 26 and due, at the in-class final, on May 5.

You must turn in three blank examination books. These blue books will be redistributed with your midterms and final exam. It is the student's responsibility to pick-up graded exams and papers promptly and retain them until after final exam grades are assigned.

EXAM DATES:

Exam I – February 16.

Exam II – March 22.

Final Exam -- Saturday, May 5, 1:30-4:00 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 an evaluation of an academic article. A synthesis of knowledge of lecture and class reading will be required in this evaluation. Specific expectations will be provided at the time of the first assigned paper. No late papers will be accepted. All papers must be submitted in both hard copy **and** electronic format. Please email papers before the beginning of class to the TA in either .doc or .docx format.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS DATES:

	Assigned on CULearn	Due, in class
Essay I	February 2	February 9
Essay II	March 1	March 8
Essay III	April 12	April 19

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 one of these analyses. If you complete two analyses the lowest grade will be dropped. Specific expectations will be provided at the time of the first assigned paper. No late papers will be accepted. All papers must be submitted in both hard copy **and** electronic format. Please email papers before the beginning of class to the TA in either .doc or .docx format.

EVENT ANALYSIS DATES:

	Assigned on CULearn	Due, in class
Event Analysis 1	January 26	February 2
Event Analysis 2	March 1	March 8
Event Analysis 3	April 19	April 26

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

Exam I -- 20%
Exam II -- 20%
Critical Analysis -- 20%
Event Analysis -- 15%
Final Exam -- 25%

Class Policies

(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/>

Course Schedule

Week of:	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS, ETC.
Week 1 January 17-19	Presidential Nominations and Elections	Wayne, ch. 1,4,5 Pfiffner, <i>Modern Presidency</i> , ch. 2, pp. 18-26. Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 37 Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , p. 61-66, #12.	
Week 2 January 24-26	Campaign Finance	Wayne, ch. 2, pp. 342-345. Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , #13.	Event Analysis #1 assigned, in class, January 26.
Week 3 January 31- February 2	The Electoral College	Pfiffner, <i>Modern Presidency</i> , pp. 26-44. Wayne, all pages in index under "Electoral College." Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #49	Event Analysis #1 due, in class, February 2. Critical Analysis #1, assigned, February 2.
Week 4 February 7-9	After the Election/The transition/First 100 days	Pfiffner, <i>Understanding</i> , #17, 30.	Critical Analysis #1 due, in class, February 9.
Week 5 February 14-16	The Presidency and the Media	Wayne, ch. 8 Pfiffner, <i>Modern Presidency</i> , ch. 2, pp. 45-53. Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , #18.	Exam #1, February 16.
Week 6 February 21-23	The Creation of the Presidency	Pfiffner, <i>Modern Presidency</i> , ch. 1 Nelson, # 1, 2, 3,	
Week 7 February 28-March 1	Enumerated Powers	Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , #1, 4, 32.	Event Analysis #2 assigned, March 1.

Week 8 March 6-8	Theories of Presidential Power	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #4, 12, 14, 20, 24. Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , #8	Event Analysis #2 due, in class, March 8. Critical Analysis # 2 assigned, March 1.
Week 9 March 13-15	Inherent Powers	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #6, 26, 29 http://law.onecle.com/constitution/article-2/02-executive-power.html	Critical Analysis #2, due, in class, March 8.
Week 10 March 20-22	Are Undefined Powers also Unlimited?	Pfiffner, <i>Modern Presidency</i> , pp. 245-260. Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #52, 53. Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , #32, 37.	Exam #2, March 22.
March 27-29			Spring Break
Week 11 April 3-5	The Presidential Institution	Pfiffner, <i>Modern Presidency</i> , ch. 3, 4. Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 42. Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , pp. 201-203, #21, 23, 25.	
Week 12 April 10-12	The President and Congress—Which branch is in charge of war?	Pfiffner, <i>Modern Presidency</i> , ch. 6. Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #10, 31, 32, 35, 38, 51 Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , # 35.	Critical Analysis #3, assigned, April 12.
Week 13 April 17-19	The President and the Court	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #1, 27. Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , #28.	Critical Analysis #3, due, in class, April 19. Event Analysis #3 assigned, in class, April 19.
Week 14 April 24-26	Watergate: A test of Presidential Powers and Separation of Powers	Pfiffner, <i>Modern Presidency</i> , pp. 230-245. Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #1, 18, 39, 40, 41, 48. Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , pp. 172-173, #39.	Event Analysis #3 due, in class, April 26 Optional final, assigned, April 26.
Week 15 May 1-3	Presidential Leadership and Personality / Presidential Greatness Revisited	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #15, 24, 31, 34, 43. Pfiffner and Davidson, <i>Understanding</i> , #40, 43.	

Final Examination, Saturday May 5, 1:30-4:00 pm. All students must take the final examination. Take-home/optional final exams are due at the time of the in-class final.