

**THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY AND EXECUTIVE POLITICS
POLITICAL SCIENCE 3011
FALL 2017**

Instructor:

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Grader:

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Course Times:

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45

Office:

128 Ketchum

Office Hours:

4:00-6:15, Tuesday and Thursday, or by appointment

Overview:

The American President is arguably the strongest and weakest actor in our political system. In this course, we explore the history of this office and examine how the powers (and purposes) of the office have changed over time. We examine how the President interacts with other important actors including Congress and the courts, and we examine how those working on behalf of the President (e.g. the Cabinet and bureaucracy) also exert weight on governmental actions and outcomes. We study how the President helps to craft domestic and foreign policy and then study how the President is nominated and then elected. We then study how the press and public interact with the President and finally end with a comparative analysis of American and Latin American presidents. A student will have a deep and substantial knowledge of the role of the US President within the American political system and beyond at the culmination of this course.

Readings:

There are three books available for purchase at the CU Bookstore. All other readings are available via Desire2Learn. The books are:

George Edwards and Stephen Wayne. 2014. *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*. 9th Edition. Cengage.

Michael Nelson. 2014. *The Presidency and the Political System*. 10th Edition. CQ Press.

Richard Neustadt. 1980. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. John Wiley.

Grades:

Your course grade is a function of four components: a closed-book midterm examination (30 points), a closed-book final examination (30 points), an analytical paper due on the last day of class (25 points), and attendance (15 points). Exams (midterm and final) use a combination of question-types including multiple choice and short answer. The final exam *is* cumulative. Additionally, the final exam day/time **cannot be changed** since this is determined by the University. Makeups for the midterm exam are only granted for a valid excuse (e.g. illness, a death in the family, or a religious holiday accompanied by a note from a doctor or other official), and the makeup is more time-consuming and thorough than the normal midterm exam.

The analytical paper exercise requires you to develop an argument and marshal evidence to answer a prompt that will be distributed to you approximately a month-and-a-half before the due date of the analytical paper. The paper may be **no longer than 6 pages, double-spaced**, should use proper citation procedures and should adhere to University rules regarding plagiarism. The analytical paper **must be submitted in pdf form via D2L**. Late papers will be penalized. Finally, all instances of cheating **will be** reported to appropriate authorities.

Finally, the attendance policy is straightforward. **Each student is granted 5 FREE unexcused absences that may be taken for any reason** (excused absences may be taken for illness, a death in the family, religious holiday, or similar event and MUST be accompanied by a note from a doctor or other official). After a student uses these 5 free absences, each subsequent unexcused absence **reduces their attendance score by 1 point (out of a possible 15 points that count for attendance in the final course grade)**. Therefore, it is possible that missing too many classes can reduce your final grade substantially, as you would earn a course grade of 85% if you performed perfectly on the exams and paper but had 20 unexcused absences (corresponding to the 5 free absences plus 15 additional unexcused absences).

The grading scale is as follows:

93-100: A
90-92: A -
88-89: B +
83-87: B
80-82: B-
78-79: C+
73-77: C
70-72: C-
60-69: D
Less than 60: F

Course Outline (readings are for the next class date):

August 29: Course Overview

- The Federalist Papers # 47 and 70
- The Constitution of the United States, 2014, "Provisions that Relate to the Presidency," in George C. Edwards and Stephen J. Wayne, *Presidential Leadership*, Appendix C, 505-514.

No class August 31

September 5: The Intent of the Presidency

- Gene Healy, 2009, *The Cult of the Presidency*, 32-46.

September 7: The Historical Presidency

- Richard Neustadt, 1980, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*, front matter and Chapters 1-5.

September 12: The Modern Presidency

- Jeffrey K. Tulis, 2010, "The Two Constitutional Presidencies," in Michael Nelson (ed.), *The Presidency and the Political System*, 9th Edition.

No class September 14

September 19: Comparing Historical and Modern Presidencies

- David Lewis, 2012, "The Personnel Process in the Modern Presidency," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 42 (3): 577-596.
- Andrew Rudalevige, 2016, "The Contemporary Presidency: The Obama Administration Presidency: Some Late-Term Patterns," *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 46 (4): 868-890.

September 21: The Contemporary Presidency 1

September 26: The Contemporary Presidency 2

- Sarah Binder, 1999, "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-96," *American Political Science Review*.

September 28: Gridlock

- Matthew Dickinson, 2014, "The President and Congress," in Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, 406-447.

October 3: The President and Congress I

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 9.
- Charles Cameron and Nolan McCarty, 2004, "Models of Vetoes and Veto Bargaining," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 409-435.

- Charles Cameron, “The Presidential Veto.”

October 5: **The President and Congress II**

October 10: **Midterm Review**

October 12: **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

- John Gerring, “General Advice on Social Science Writing.”
- Tim Buthe, “Planning and Writing an Analytical Empirical Paper in Political Science.”

October 17: **Workshop on Writing Assignment**

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 10.

October 19: **The President and the Judiciary**

- Andrew Rudalevige, 2014, “The Presidency and Unilateral Power: A Taxonomy,” in Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and Political System*, 473-499.
- David Lewis and Terry Moe, 2014, “The Presidency and the Bureaucracy: The Levers of Presidential Control,” in Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, 374-405.

October 24: **The President and the Bureaucracy**

- John Burke, 2014, “The Institutional Presidency,” in Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, 349-373.

October 26: **The Office of the President**

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 6.

October 31: **The President’s Cabinet**

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapters 11-12.
- Stuart Eizenstat, 1992, “Economists and White House Decisions,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives VI*, 65-71.

November 2: **Domestic and Economic Policymaking I**

- Brandice Canes-Wrone, William Howell, and David Lewis, 2008, “Toward a Broader Understanding of Presidential Power: A Reevaluation of the Two Presidencies Thesis,” *Journal of Politics*.

November 7: **Domestic and Economic Policymaking II**

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 13.
- William Howell, 2014, “Count on Congress: The Logic of Handing Syria over to the Lawmakers,” *Foreign Affairs*.

November 9: **Foreign Policy**

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 2.

November 14: The Nomination Process

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 3.
- David Mayhew, 2008, "Incumbency Advantage in U.S. Presidential Elections: The Historical Record," *Political Science Quarterly*, 123 (2): 201-228.

November 16: The Election Process

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 5.
- Elvin Lim, 2014, "The Presidency and the Media: Two Faces of Democracy," in Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, 258-271.

No class November 21 or November 23. Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28: The President and the Press

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, 2014, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 4.

November 30: The President and the Public

- Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., 1997, "Rating the Presidents: From Washington to Clinton," *Political Science Quarterly*, 179-190.
- Brendan Nyhan, 2015, "Scandal Potential: How Political Context and News Congestion affect the President's Vulnerability to Media Scandal," *British Journal of Political Science*.

December 5: Scandal and the President's Reputation

- George Edwards and Stephen Wayne, *Presidential Leadership*, Chapter 7.

December 7: Presidential Leadership: Failures and Successes

- Juan Linz, 1990, "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy*.
- Jose Antonio Cheibub, Zachary Elkins, and Tom Ginsburg, 2011, "Latin American Presidentialism in Comparative and Historical Perspective," *Texas Law Review*.

December 12: Presidentialism in Comparative Perspective

December 14: Final Review

ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS VIA D2L

December 16: FINAL EXAMINATION FROM 1:30-4