

PSCI 3011-001, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

Instructor: Dr. Mike Kanner
Tuesday, Thursday 3:30 PM - 04:45 PM
HLMS 201

Instructor Contact Information:

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Office Location – Ketchum 122
Office Hours – Monday, Thursday, Friday 10:30 to 11:30 AM
Campus Box – 333 UCB

Communication Policies:

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. My normal response time is 8 to 12 hours (although it may just be an acknowledgment). If you do not hear from me within 24 hours, contact the political science office (303.492.7871) and ask them to call me.

Instructor Biography:

I am a member of the political science faculty at the University of Colorado, Boulder, I teach for political science, the International Affairs Program, and have taught in several the resident academic programs as well as continuing education. While I hold a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in engineering, I also have a Masters in Managerial Science from Troy State University, and a Master of Arts in international relations from Salve Regina University. My Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder focused on political psychology and its effect on foreign policy decision making.

As adjunct faculty, my only focus is on teaching undergraduates. Over the years, I have taught every subfield of political science including almost every aspect of American politics and policy (the exception being the courts). My emphasis is on developing students' ability to apply theory to current events and to foster their appreciation of history. Classes are intellectually challenging with students defending positions in class and in assessments. My goal is to force you to reconsider your beliefs and will argue, even if I agree with you.

Course Description (from course catalog)

Covers constitutional and institutional foundations and historical development of the presidency; roles, powers, selection, recent modifications, and institutionalization. Uses lectures and class discussion. Prereq., PSCI 1101. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: United States context.

Objectives

1. Identify the formal and informal powers of the president.
2. Explain the selection and election process.
3. Describe the relationship between the president, the bureaucracy, Congress and the courts.
4. Explain the ways in which presidents make policy.
5. Examine the major issues in presidential politics.

Overview

Classes usually start with a short presentation (5-10 minutes) on the day's topic ending with a debate question from the text (if we are reading *Debating the Presidency* that day or one of my own choosing based on the essay we have read). During these debates, students will present the reasoning behind their position and evidence (current or historical) in support of their position.

Assigned readings provide the basis for these discussions. However, just because something is published, does not mean you must accept the argument. A secondary purpose of the course is to promote your ability to analyze arguments. In addition to the content, you should also analyze articles for these elements.

1. Identify the assumptions or statements that frame the argument.
2. Examine the accuracy and validity of these assumptions.
3. Analyze how these assumptions result in different perspectives about the world
4. Compare the different policies that may come from the different assumptions.

Required Texts

Ellis, Richard J. and Michael Nelson. 2018. *Debating the Presidency: Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive. 4th Edition.* Washington, D.C.: Sage Publishing/CQ Press.

Nelson, Michael. ed. 2014. *The Presidency and the Political System, 10th Edition.* Washington, D.C.: Sage Publishing/CQ Press

Pika, Joseph A.; John A Maltese, and Andrew Rudalevige. 2018. *Understanding a New Presidency in the Age of Trump.* Washington, D.C.: Sage Publishing/CQ Press

These books are available from the University bookstore as a single package to get a discounted price. If you want, you can also order them online as either physical text or e-book. However, you **MUST** have access to textbooks since I do not repeat what is in the readings.

Ensure that you have the correct editions of the required texts. They are regularly updated and previous editions do not correspond with the more recent editions. This is especially true for *Debating the Presidency*.

Student Responsibilities

1. Show up to class. Readings are only part of what goes on in class.
2. Be on time. Lateness is a sign of disrespect to me and the other students.
3. Do the readings. The class is based on discussions so being uninformed will decrease everybody's learning experience.
4. Keep up with the news. It is always an interesting time to study politics, especially during a presidential campaign. We will be using current events to illustrate and apply what we learn in class.

Grading

Grading is based on a 100-point scale.

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
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A-	90-93	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62	

Your final grade will be a function of the points you achieve. Points are allocated on the following basis.

Exams – 2 at points 25 each; Final – 35 points	85 points
Attendance and participation	15 points
Total	100 points

Exams

The three exams (including the final exam) will be in class, closed book exams. Each will consist of seven short answer questions (one paragraph essay) from which students will select five. The final will consist of nine questions of which the student will need to answer seven. These questions are mostly drawn from the in-class discussion questions and will require some synthesis of the subjects discussed since the last exam. A review sheet for the exam will be published at least one week prior to the exam.

Attendance.

Absences will only be excused based on illness, incarceration, religious observation, work, sports team or ROTC commitments, or family emergencies. Documentation for the absence may be requested.

Class Schedule

January	
16 – Syllabus; PPS 2	18 – PPS 1
23 – DTP 1	25 – PPS 3
30 – PPS 4	
February	
	1 – PPS 7
6 – DTP 3	8 – PPS 8
13 – DTP 4; UNP Section I and II	15 - Exam
20 – PPS 5	22 – DTP 7
27 – PPS 6	
March	
	1 – PPS 13
6 – DTP 2	8 – PPS 17
13 – DTP 11	15 – DTP 12; UNP Section III
20 - Exam	22 – PPS 9
27 – Spring Break	29 – Spring Break
April	
3 – DTP 8	5 – PPS 10
10 – DTP 6	12 – PPS 11
17 – PPS 12	19 – PPS 14; UNP Section IV
24 – PPS 15	26 – PPS 16

May	
1 – DTP 13	3 – PPS 18; UNP Section VI
Final Exam - TBD	
Legend	
PPS	Chapter from <i>The Presidency and the Political System, 10th Edition</i>
DTP	Chapter from <i>Debating the Presidency: Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive, 3rd Edition</i>
UNP	Section from <i>Understanding a New Presidency in the Age of Trump</i> .

Policies

The language here is recommended by the University administration.

Disabilities

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 be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Religious Observances

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, notify me as soon as possible. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html. A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students is at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

Honor Code

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, 303-735-2273). 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/>

Sexual Harassment

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 sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, 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>