

**PSCI 3011-001, American Presidency and the Executive Branch****(Revised for Online Instruction)****New information is highlighted****Online****Contact Information**

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**Communication Policies**

I am best contacted by e-mail. I normally answer within 12 hours, although sometimes this is just acknowledgment of receipt. If I have not answered in 24 hours, please call the Political Science office (303-492-7871) and have them contact me by phone.

**Instructor Biography**

I have been a lecturer in political science and international affairs since 2001. During this time, I have taught courses in all American political institutions except for the Court system. I also teach courses in international relations from security studies to development to international behavior.

While my bachelor's degree was in science with a concentration in engineering, I also have a master's in managerial science, international relations, and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where I focused on political psychology and its effect on foreign policy decision making. A significant part of my dissertation was the development of a model of individual decision making under prospect theory.

Prior to joining academia, I had a career in the US Army serving as an operations officer from brigade to theater army level in the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

My publications include models of decision making as well as teaching. Additionally, I was an analyst for Defense Department studies on a diverse set of subjects, including expert decision making, low-intensity conflict, and preventive diplomacy.

**Course Description (from the catalog)**

Examines the constitutional, institutional, and historical development of the presidency and the federal bureaucracy. Explores the changing role of the executive branch in the US political system over time and competing views of executive power.

Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: United States context.

**Course 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 current presidency, considering the prevailing theories.

**Questions.** There are two questions that frame our discussions.

1. How did we go from the president as the servant of Congress to it becoming the dominant institution?
2. Has the presidency gotten too big?

### Overview of Class and Responsibilities

Each of us has roles in the classrooms. As the instructor, I am a resource and moderator. As students, you have responsibility for your learning.

#### Instructor

I will have notes, my lecture, and slides available by the dates posted on the syllabus. I will also be available for virtual office hours by appointment using the **Chat** tool on **Canvas**.

#### Student

Understanding the University's course support software (Canvas) is necessary for taking this course. If you are not familiar or don't feel confident in your knowledge, visit the OIT website for Student Support Videos (<https://oit.colorado.edu/services/teaching-learning-tools/canvas/student-support/student-support-videos>).

Second, do the readings. You should analyze each reading for these elements.

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

Finally, keep up with the news. It is always an exciting time to study politics. We will be using current events to illustrate and apply what we learn in class.

### Course Outline and Schedule

<b>January</b>	
14 – Syllabus, PPS 2	16 – PPS 1
21 – DTP 1	23 – PPS 3
28 – PPS 4	30 – PPS 7
<b>February</b>	
4 – DTP 3	6 – PPS 8
11 – DTP 4	<b>13 – Exam</b>
18 – PPS 5	20 – DTP 7
25 – PPS 6	27 – PPS 13
<b>March</b>	

3 – DTP 2	5 – PPS 17
10 – DTP 12	<b>12 - Exam</b>
<b>Transition to Online Instruction</b>	
<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Lesson – Rhetorical Presidency	March 30 – April 1
Lesson – President and Media	April 2 – April 4
Lesson – Presidents and Interest Groups	April 5 – April 7
Lesson – Presidents and Parties	April 8 – April 10
Lesson – Presidents and the Bureaucracy	April 11 – April 13
Lesson – Presidents and Congress	April 14 – April 15
Lesson – Presidents and the Courts	April 16 – April 18
Lesson – Presidential Public Policy	April 19 – April 21
Lesson – Presidential War Making	April 22 – April 24
Lesson – Removing the President	April 25 – April 28
<b>Final Exam – noon on April 29 to 11:59 PM on May 2, 2020</b>	
<b>Legend</b>	
<b>PPS</b>	Nelson, Michael, ed. 2018. <i>The presidency and the Political System, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition</i> . Washington, DC: Sage/CQ Press.
<b>DTP</b>	Ellis, Richard J. 2018. <i>Debating the Presidency, Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition</i> . Washington, DC: Sage/CQ Press.

**Required Texts** (do **NOT** use earlier editions)

Ellis, Richard J. 2018. *Debating the Presidency, Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Washington, DC: Sage/CQ Press.

Nelson, Michael, ed. 2018. *The presidency and the Political System, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Washington, DC: Sage/CQ Press.

**Grading Criteria**

Grades are based on a scale of 100 points. Your final grade will be a function of the number of points that you achieve.

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

Points are allocated based on the following distribution.

Midterm – 25 points each	50 points
Final	35 points
Participation/attendance (up through March 10, 2020)	8 points
Online participation	7 points
Total	100 points

*Midterm.* There are two midterms. Each will consist of seven possible questions of which you need to answer five. A review will be published about ten days in advance of the exam.

*Final Exam.* The Final will be online and open book. It will consist of seven questions. You will have two hours for this exam. It will be posted and available for you to take the Exam from noon on April 29 to 11:59 PM on May 2, 2020.

*Participation/attendance.* Self-explanatory. You are paying for the classes; you might as well go.

*Online participation.* Online discussion participation consists of posting your responses to discussion questions and your reaction to the postings of other students. When your posting has resulted in a question from Dr. Kanner, you should respond to that question as well.

There will be ten online lessons, each worth one point. Of these, you need to participate in seven lessons if you want full credit. Anything beyond the minimum will count as extra credit. This means there are now three points of extra credit available.

Lessons for the online section of the course will be found on **Canvas**. Each lesson consists of –

- A short introduction provides the context for the lesson.
- A set of study questions (to guide your reading).
- Your reading assignment.
- An audio file with a lecture.
- A slide packet for you to review while listening to the lecture.
- The discussion question for the lesson which will be available as a **Canvas Discussion**. To get credit, you must post your comment before the end date for the lesson.

All of these will be available on **Canvas** as links on the **Home Page**, the same as notes and slides have been for the first two modules of the semester.

Read the assignment and listen to the lecture before posting your comments on the online discussions.

### **Online Behavior Policy**

In addition to participating in the conversations, I will be monitoring all postings for *ad hominem* attacks and cyber-bullying. First-time violators will be warned about postings and online behavior. The second time by the same offender will result in the removal of posting access. You will still be required to take the exams but will be penalized by not being able to earn a score for participation. Any student that feels that online postings are

offensive or think that they are the victim of cyber-bullying through the course should contact me at [michael.kanner@colorado.edu](mailto:michael.kanner@colorado.edu).

## **Policies** (as established by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)

### Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

### Classroom Behavior

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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

### Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

### Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding

the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

### Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

### Religious Holidays

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, e-mail me ([Michael.kanner@colorado.edu](mailto:Michael.kanner@colorado.edu)) to inform me of any days that will be missed. If there is a graded assignment due on that day, we will work out alternate due dates or means of evaluating.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.