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PSCI 3011-001, American Presidency and the Executive Branch

Remote Learning

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 11:30 AM to 12:20 PM

Instructor Contact Information

E-mail – michael.kanner@colorado.edu

Office hours – Friday, 11:30 to 12:20 as a CONFERENCE on CANVAS.

Appointments by request. These will be conducted using the CONFERENCE function on CANVAS.

Communication Policies

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. I usually answer within 12 hours, although it may just be an acknowledgment of receipt.

Instructor Biography

I have been a lecturer in political science and international affairs since 2001 and have taught most international relations subjects from security to economics. My bachelor's degree was in science with a concentration in engineering. I also have a master's in managerial science from Troy State University, international relations from Salve Regina University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where I focused on political psychology and its effect on foreign policy decision making.

Before joining academia, I served in the U.S. Army, including assignments as an operations officer and analyst from brigade to theater army level in the United States, Latin America, and Europe. As an analyst, my work included studies on expert decision making, low-intensity conflict, and preventive diplomacy.

Course Description (from 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 U.S. political system over time and competing views of executive power.

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

Course Objectives

1. Describe the constitutional basis of presidential power.
2. Discuss the process by which presidential power expanded.
3. Examine the psychology and competency of presidents.

4. Recognize the issues involved in selecting and electing presidents.
5. Identify the methods and institutions the presidents use to advance their agenda
6. Evaluate and identify the problems presidents have when working with other institutions (Congress, the Courts, the Bureaucracy) to develop and promote policy.

Overview of Class

Because of class size and COVID restrictions, this class will be conducted using remote learning. With remote learning, part of the course will be synchronous (requiring you to be present at specific times), and others will be asynchronous (you can participate based on your own schedule).

Each lesson is organized in the following manner.

1. Readings.

These are assigned in the syllabus. You are expected to have read them before Monday's lectures. You should analyze each reading for these elements.

- a. Identify the key points.
- b. Examine the accuracy and validity of the statements and assumptions within the reading.
- c. Do not assume that because it is published, the premises cannot be challenged.

2. Lectures.

Lectures are the synchronous portion of the course and will be Mondays during the scheduled class time of 11:30 AM to 12:40 PM (Labor Day is an exception).

- a. These will be conducted the CONFERENCES tool on CANVAS. You will see them listed the lesson number and title in NEW CONFERENCES.
- b. The lectures will be recorded so that students that miss the scheduled lecture period will be able to view them.
- c. If you are not familiar with the CONFERENCES tool, there is a short guide at <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-use-Conferences-in-a-course-as-a-student/ta-p/470>.
- d. There is also a video on YOUTUBE to give you an overview - <https://youtu.be/uYYnryIM0Uw>.

3. Discussions

Each lesson's discussion is the online component of the class.

- a. Questions will be posted as DISCUSSIONS on CANVAS.
- b. Students will have from the end of the lecture to Thursday at 11:59 PM to post their thoughts and comment on what other students have posted.
- c. If I respond to your posting with a question, you should answer the question or questions.
- d. Discussions are instead of classroom discussions, so do not use it to post diatribes or lengthy responses. I am looking for short paragraphs, not researched papers.

4. Office hours

- a. I will have dedicated office hours for this class from 11:30 AM to 12:20 PM using the CONFERENCES function on CANVAS.

- b. You can also ask to meet at some other time by e-mailing me and asking for a different time. These will also be conducted using the CONFERENCES tool.

Required Texts (do NOT use earlier editions)

Ellis, Richard J. 2021. *Debating the Presidency, Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive, 5th Edition*. Washington, DC: Sage/C.Q. Press.

Nelson, Michael, ed. 2018. *The Presidency and the Political System, 11th Edition*. Washington, DC: Sage/C.Q. Press.

Grading Criteria

Your final grade will be based on how many points you accrue and this grading scale. Because Canvas uses a default grading scheme, there may be a difference between the final grade and what is listed. I will post your Final Grade on CANVAS before posting it to the Registrar's office.

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

Grades are based on these elements.

Module Exams – 3 at 30 points each	90 points
Online Participation – 14 possible	10 points
Total	100 points

1. Module Exams.
 - a. Module exams will consist of five short-paragraph essays related to the critical questions in the module (look at the discussion and study questions for hints).
 - b. You will have one hour for each of these exams.
 - c. These exams will be available as ASSIGNMENTS: EXAMS on CANVAS for a specific period (these will be part of the review sheet). Make sure that you have a good internet connection before starting each exam because dropped service can result in losing your work.

2. Online Participation.
 - a. DISCUSSIONS on CANVAS are instead of classroom discussions.
 - b. For the class to proceed together, there are limits on times for participation. Grades are allocated based on your participation within those limits.
 - i. Full credit (1 point) will be given if you post your response before the no later than date. There usually are two to three days between these; however, check the schedule to make sure.
 - ii. After the no later than date, discussions will be locked, so additional postings are not possible. At that point, they will be read-only.

- c. If you notice, you can miss some of the discussions and still get the 10 points for participation, however, since CANVAS totals all the points, responding to more than the minimum will count as extra credit

Course Outline and Schedule

Lesson	Readings	Lecture Date	Discussion end date
Module 1. Introduction			
1. The Two Constitutional Presidencies	PPS – Ch. 1	Aug. 24	Aug. 27
2. The Development of Presidential Power	PPS – Ch. 3; DTP – Ch. 1	Aug. 31	Sept. 3
3. Presidency in History	PPS – Ch. 4	Sept. 9*	Sept. 11*
4. Presidential Competence	PPS – Ch. 5	Sept. 14	Sept. 17
5. Psychological Presidency	PPS – Ch. 6	Sept. 21	Sept. 24
Module 1 Exam will be available from Sept. 25 to 11:59 PM Sept. 27			
Module 2. Elections and Connections			
6. The Presidency and the Nominating Process	PPS – Ch. 7; DTP – Ch. 3	Sept. 28	Oct. 1
7. The Electoral College	PPS – Ch. 8; DTP – Ch. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 8
8. Presidential Spectacle	PPS – Ch. 9; DTP – Ch. 8	Oct. 12	Oct. 15
9. Presidents and Interest Groups	PPS – Ch. 11	Oct. 19	Oct. 22
10. Presidents and Political Parties	PPS – Ch. 12	Oct. 26	Oct. 29
Module 2 Exam will be available from Oct. 30 to 11:59 PM Nov. 1			
Module 3. The Governing President			
11. The President and the Bureaucracy	PPS – Ch. 14	Nov. 2	Nov. 5
12. The President and Congress	PPS – Ch. 15	Nov. 9	Nov. 12
13. The President and the Judiciary	PPS – Ch. 16; Ch. 13	Nov. 16	Nov. 19
14. Presidential Power and Public Policy	PPS – Ch. 18; Ch. 12	Nov. 30	Dec. 3
Module 3 Exam will be available during finals week. The specific dates and times will be posted as part of the review sheet.			

Legend	
PPS	Nelson, Michael, ed. 2018. <i>The Presidency and the Political System, 11th Edition</i> . Washington, DC: Sage/C.Q. Press.
DTP	Ellis, Richard J. 2021. <i>Debating the Presidency, Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive, 5th Edition</i> . Washington, DC: Sage/C.Q. Press.
*	The lecture and discussion deadlines are shifted because of the Labor Day holiday on Monday.

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

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. 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](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the C.U. Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements, and public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at C.U. Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

- maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,
- wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,
- clean local work area,
- practice hand hygiene,
- follow public health orders, and
- if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a C.U. Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert [C.U. Boulder Medical Services](#).

Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](#) and [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require

accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the "Accommodation for Disabilities" statement on this syllabus.

Before returning to campus, all students must complete the [COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course](#). Before coming on to campus each day, all students are required to complete a [Daily Health Form](#)

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and complete the [Health Questionnaire and Illness Reporting Form](#) remotely. If you are sick or quarantined, notify me as soon as possible. You do not need to tell me the nature of the illness, just the approximate period that you will be absent so that we can arrange accommodations.

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 for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

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); 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 (C.U. Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. C.U. Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (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. 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, dating and domestic violence, stalking, 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, notify me of the days that you will be missing, and we will arrange accommodations.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#)