

## **Syllabus for the American Presidency**

INSTRUCTOR: Dukhong Kim

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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DEPARTMENT-COURSE # - SECTION #: Political Science 320, Section 66

COURSE TITLE: The American Presidency

EVENING: Wednesday                      QUARTER/YEAR: Spring 2007

TIME: 6:15- 9:15 pm                      CAMPUS: Chicago

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT AND PREREQUISITES:

This course studies the origin and evolution of the American presidency. We will examine different perspectives of understanding presidential leadership. With these perspectives we will be able to pursue the questions of what makes good presidents and how we define successful presidents. We also deal with the issue of the nomination and election of presidents; the way the presidential office works and is organized; and presidential governance in relation to the public, the mass media, Congress, other executive branches, and the Judiciary. Lastly, we will look at how presidents engage and exert power in making domestic, economic, and foreign policies.

Pre-requisite: American government and politics (Pol220) or permission of the instructor

TEACHING METHODS: Lecture and Discussion.

METHOD OF EVALUATION: Grades will be based on a midterm examination (30%), a final examination (45%), and class participation (25%). The exams will consist of essays and identification questions, and a full class hour will be allotted for each of the exams. Each student is required to make a presentation of a topic of their choosing, and will receive a discussion grade based on the presentation, engagement with the readings and with the ideas of other students.

Discussion and Presentation: I believe in the exchange of ideas, discussions, and debates as important tools for learning about the American Presidency. Thus, it is important to engage in constructive debates in the class as well as to make good comments on the subjects and issues. It is

necessary to read the text and the other books in advance to prepare for and participate in the discussions. Each student (or a group of students) will have at least one chance to present topics that they choose for themselves. The format of the presentations is informal.

Grading standard: Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scoring scheme.

- A range: 90-100%
- B range: 80-89%
- C range: 70-79%
- D range: 60-69%
- F range: below 60%

A - outstanding work, showing creativity, knowledge of the readings, and engagement with the subject matter.

B - very good work, demonstrating a command of the material presented and the ability to interact with it and with the class in a knowledgeable way.

C - good work, exhibiting the completion of the readings and all required assignments.

D - marginal work, with late assignments, assignments inadequately completed, and little class participation.

F - poor work, assignments not turned in or consistently turned in late without adequate explanation, lack of participation in class discussions.

Note: If an emergency arises during the quarter that makes fulfillment of class requirements difficult, please discuss the situation with me as early as possible, so we can discuss how to resolve the problem and maintain your good standing.

Academic honesty: Students should follow Northwestern University regulations regarding academic integrity which are laid out in the Student Handbook. Students are strongly advised to read and familiarize themselves with these regulations. If students violate standards of academic honesty -i.e., by cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or academic interference, they will get a failing grade for the class and may face expulsion from the University.

#### REQUIRED READINGS :

- Edwards III, George C. and Stephen J. Wayne. 2005. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*. New York: Wadsworth Publishing
- Nelson, Michael, 2006. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. *The Presidency and the Political System*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press.
- Rudalevige, Andrew. 2005. *The New Imperial Presidency: Renewing Presidential Power After Watergate*. University of Michigan Press

Woodward, Bob. 2004. *Plan of Attack*. New York: Simon & Schuster

Other articles and book chapters will be available through Blackboard, a class website.

RECOMMENDED:

Milkis, Sidney and Michael Nelson. 2004. *The American Presidency: Origins and Development 1776-2002*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly

Edwards III, George C. 2006. *Governing by Campaigning: The Politics of the Bush Presidency*. Longman.

Hess, Stephen and James Pfiffner. 2002. *Organizing Presidency*. Brookings Institution Press.

Kernell, Samuel. 2006. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. *Going Public*. Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly.

Neustadt, Richard E. 1991. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. New York: Free Press.

Skowronek, Stephen. 1993. *The Politics Presidents Make*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

This reading schedule is subject to change depending on the progress of the class.

Reading Schedule

March 28. Introduction and organization

April 4: Origins and Evolution

Edwards and Wayne ch.1

Rudalevige, ch 1 and 2

The Federalist Papers #47 and #70:

The Constitution of the United States, Article II

Tulis, "The Two Constitutional Presidencies" in Nelson.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE PRESIDENCY

April 11: Perspectives on the presidency

Neustadt's "Power to Persuade" : a copy will be provided.

Historical approach:

Skowronek's "Presidential Leadership in Political Time" in Michael Nelson.

Psychological approach:

Michael Nelson, "The Psychological Presidency," in Michael Nelson.

April 18: Electing presidents – Nomination and Elections

Edwards III and Wayne ch 2-3

Pious, "The Presidency and the Nominating Process," in Nelson.

Aldrich and others "The Presidency and election campaign: Altering Voter's Priorities in 2004 elections", chapter 8 in Nelson.

Video:

April 25: The President , Public Opinion, and the Mass Media

Edwards III and Wayne ch.4 and 5.

Hetherington and Globetti, "The Presidency and Political Trust" in Nelson.

Miroff, "The Presidential Spectacle," in Nelson.

Jacobs, "The Presidency and the Press," in Nelson.

Reference: Edwards III, "Governing by Campaigning" chapter 1-4.

May 2: Midterm

May 9: The President's Office / Bureaucracy

Edwards and Wayne ch. 6 , 7 and 9

Burke, John., "The Institutional Presidency" in Nelson.

Lewis, David E., "Presidents and the Bureaucracy" in Nelson

Reference: Hess's entire book

## THE PRESIDENCY AND GOVERNANCE

May 16: The President and Congress

Edwards and Wayne ch. 10

Dickinson, Mathew J., "The President and Congress," in Nelson,

Video:

Rudalvege, ch 3 and 4

May 23: Presidential Policy Making - Economic and Domestic Policies

Edwards and Wayne ch. 12-13

Rudalvege, ch 5

Reference: Edwards III, ch 6 and 7.

May 30: The President and Foreign Policy

Edwards and Wayne ch. 14 and 15

Rudalvege, ch 6 and 7

Woodward: the entire book

June 6: Final

Inherently, the presidency is dual in character. The president serves as both head of government (the nation's chief administrator) and head of state (the symbolic embodiment of the nation). Through centuries of constitutional struggle between the crown and Parliament, England had separated the two offices, vesting the prime minister with the function of running the government and leaving the ceremonial responsibilities of leadership to the monarch. His warnings laid the foundation for America's isolationist foreign policy, which lasted through most of the country's history before World War II, as well as for the Monroe Doctrine. Perils accompanying the French revolutionary wars occupied Washington's attention, as well as that of his three immediate successors. To contribute a syllabus for publication here, please complete the syllabus submission form. For more resources on diversity and inclusiveness, see our resource guide. Some of these syllabi are completely devoted to an underrepresented area of philosophy, while others contain one or more units on such areas. In some cases, a brief annotation is included. Many are cross-listed and appear in multiple categories. PrintPlace Nonprofit Sponsorship Program supports The American Philosophical Association. With Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your order to the APA at no cost to you. The American Philosophical Association University of Delaware 31 Amstel Avenue, Newark, DE 19716 Phone: 302.831.1112 | Fax: 302.831.8690 Email: info@apaonline.org. Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents: The Politics of Leadership. , 1990 paperback -Nassir Ghaemi's. A First-Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links Between Leadership and Mental Illness. 2 \*Write about any approved topic related to the U.S. presidency. State a thesis and use your research and analysis to prove whatever case you wish to make about the presidency. Choose a subject that excites you and about which you want to read, learn, think, and write. Except for recent presidents, these collections omitted many documents such as proclamations, vetoes and orders. So, prior to 1945, the number of documents in the APP collection in any specific category may be smaller than the total in existence. So, based simply on document frequencies, our collection overstates the activity level of the post-FDR presidency compared to earlier years. Presidential (255030). Correspondents' Association (31).