

The American Presidency

Fall 2017

Tues/Thurs

12:00pm – 1:20pm

015 Atkinson

COURSE NUMBER:	POLI 4036-1	INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Josh Bowman
CREDIT HOURS:	3	CONTACT INFO:	Stubbs 217
PREREQUISITE:	POLI 2051 or equivalent		225-578-2383
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OFFICE HOURS:	Tues, Wed 8a-10a	and by appointment	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an advanced examination of the American presidency as it has developed since the American Founding. We begin by exploring the origins and establishment of the presidency, and how the Framers thought about executive power. Our study will emphasize the organization of the presidency, presidential strategy, power and selection, the relationship of the executive with other branches and aspects of presidential politics and policy, as well as the significant influence which historical circumstances and individuals have had on the nature of the office. Throughout the course, we will consider the impact the presidency has on our everyday lives and how the insights of political science equip us to better understand the executive branch.

REQUIRED TEXTS

[The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776–2014](#), 7th Ed. by Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson (CQ Press, 2016)

[The Evolving Presidency Landmark Documents, 1787-2015](#) 5th edition, Ed. by Michael Nelson (CQ Press, 2016)

****Books are sold at the LSU book store in a discounted bundle**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**** IF YOU ARE AN HONORS, LAW OR GRADUATE STUDENT, PLEASE SET UP A MEETING WITH ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Exams (Midterm – 100 points / Final – 200 points)

Two partial take-home (open-book & open-note) exams will be given in this course. Exams will consist of three parts. Part I will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions. This closed-book section will be completed in the final 20 minutes of the class on the day the rest of the exam is handed out.

Part II will require that you briefly define key terms (concepts, individuals, institutions, documents) and establish their significance for the study of the Presidency. Part III will be essay questions of varying length.

The Final Exam is cumulative, but will emphasize material taught after the Midterm. Study guides will be provided. Further information will be given in class.

Take-Home Exams are to be the work of individual students only. You may not work on exams with one another, but you are encouraged to prepare for them with one another. Violation of this policy will cost each student involved 150 points. No late exams will be accepted. You may request that a copy of the exam be e-mailed to you, and you will receive it the same afternoon in which the rest of the class receives it.

Reading Quizzes (50 points each)

The Milkis and Nelson textbook, *The American Presidency*, examines the development of the presidency from its conception through to the beginning of Barack Obama's second term. Their work provides a critical historical foundation for everything we study this semester, but much of the material they offer will not be addressed directly in class. This does not mean that it is not important. We simply do not have the course time to take all their insights into consideration. In order to hold you accountable to reading this text and other assigned readings (including those in *The Evolving Presidency*), 7 brief quizzes will be administered to gauge students' commitment to, and comprehension of, the readings.

Quizzes vary in length and may contain multiple-choice and short answer questions. Each quiz will be administered online via Moodle and will be available 24 hours prior to the respective class period. You will need to complete the quiz prior to that class. The quiz will be timed, so be sure you have read everything before taking it, though you *can* use your book to complete the assignment. For example, the first reading quiz is listed for Tuesday August 29th. You will have from 12:00pm CST on Monday August 28th, until 11:59am Tuesday, August 29th to complete the quiz. While all quizzes are worth 50 points, they will not all contain the same number of questions.

These online quizzes cannot be made up. If you miss the quiz, you may provide a detailed outline of *The American Presidency* chapters assigned for that quiz, to be turned in within 5 calendar days of that quiz's due date as an alternative means to the 50 points.

Short Essay Assignments (125 points each)

This course will have a total of two essay writing assignments based on questions or topics provided by the instructor. These papers must be three to five pages in length, double spaced, have 1" margins all around, use black, Times New Roman 12-pt font, and must use appropriate methods of citation (preferably Turabian/Chicago) when quoting from sources. **Grammar and writing style will be incorporated into the grading.** Tips and guidelines for formatting and writing in this class will be provided on Moodle. All papers are due at the *beginning* of class. (See Late Work Policy on next page)

Attendance and Participation (100 points total)

Substantive class participation, expressing both familiarity with and contemplation of course readings and topics, will be considered in the evaluation of final grades.

Attendance of all classes is mandatory and will be taken at the *beginning* of each class. **If you are late to class, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor at the end of class.** Each absence after the 3rd will incur a 50-point deduction from the final grade. For example, a student earns an 850 (B) based on course assignments, but was absent a total of 6 times. 150 points would then be deducted from this grade, and the student would end up receiving a 700 (C-) for the course. **A student who misses more than 7 classes in the semester will automatically fail the course.** With this in mind, please reserve your quantity of permitted absences for true emergencies.

CELL PHONE/TECH QUIZZES: No cell phones or other electronic devices not used for note-taking or reading are allowed to be seen or heard during the class period. If your cell phone or device rings, dings, vibrates, beeps, or leaves your pocket or bag, you forfeit your attendance grade for the day and the entire class will be given an impromptu quiz. The same policy holds if those taking notes or reading the assigned texts on laptops or tablets are found to be doing something other than note-taking or reading class related material.

ONLINE LECTURE QUIZZES: For several class periods this semester, the lecture will be recorded and made available on Moodle. In addition to watching these lectures, each session will be accompanied by a brief online, multiple-choice quiz regarding that lecture. In order to receive the attendance grade for that class, you will need to watch the lecture and achieve an 80% on the quiz. Each online lecture/quiz needs to be completed before the next in-class period. For example, there will be a recorded lecture for the class period on Thursday, Aug. 31st. You will need to watch the online lecture and complete the quiz before the class period on Tuesday, September 5th.

GRADING

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 1000 POINTS AVAILABLE IN THIS COURSE.

MIDTERM EXAM		100 TOTAL
FINAL EXAM		200 TOTAL
7 READING QUIZZES	50 POINTS EACH	350 TOTAL
ATTENDENCE	-	100 TOTAL
2 SHORT ESSAYS	125 POINTS EACH	250 TOTAL

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A+	980 – 1000 POINTS		
A	930 - 979 POINTS	C+	780 – 799 POINTS
A-	900 - 929 POINTS	C	730 – 779 POINTS
B+	880 – 899 POINTS	C-	700 – 729 POINTS
B	830 – 879 POINTS	D	600 – 699 POINTS
B-	800 – 829 POINTS	F	Below 600 POINTS

**Though opportunities for extra credit may arise, it is unlikely*

LATE WORK POLICY

No Late Exams will be accepted

Short essays will be deducted 10 points for every day they are turned in late. Work due at the beginning of class that is turned in during or after the end of class is considered one day late. **Any work more than 8 calendar days late will not be accepted.**

Late work may be turned in by e-mail, but I prefer a hard copy when possible. Assignments turned in to my campus mailbox must be “time-stamped” and signed by the secretary.

OFFICE HOURS AND ASSISTANCE

I am committed to helping you navigate the requirements and material of this course to the best of my ability. In addition to my scheduled office hours, I welcome your questions by e-mail and am happy to meet you during office hours by appointment any time I am available to do so. Please e-mail me with a time that works for you. In general, I will always be available for my office hours. However, if you can give me a heads up that you plan to stop by, I would greatly appreciate it! Also check the Moodle Calendar for some changes in availability.

Center for Academic Success (CAS) offers valuable tools and strategies, both online and in person, to help you achieve your academic goals. Services include private consultations, workshops, tutoring, and peer-led study sessions to help maximize your learning potential. CAS provides strategies for time management, test preparation, test anxiety, note-taking, as well as concept-mapping and college-level reading strategies.

|B-31 Coates |225-578-2872 | cas@lsu.edu | www.lsu.edu/cas

SYLLABUS CHANGES

Due to a variety of circumstances the class agenda/schedule may deviate from the schedule made available the first week of the semester in the syllabus. As a result, short-essay assignment due dates and reading schedules may vary. I will make every attempt to keep you aware of any needed changes and accommodate situations where alterations in the schedule create an inconvenience. Please check Moodle regularly for updates. **EXAM DATES WILL NOT CHANGE**

CONTENT DISCLAIMER

Any course on politics inevitably deals with *real life* behaviors, situations and human circumstances. As a consequence some material covered over the course of the semester will be potentially more *provocative* than others. Confronting divisive topics and issues which we feel very passionate about is a necessary effect of this course. The intention is never to offend but to inform. As your professor, I am committed to approaching these topics as sensitively as possible and I expect students to do the same.

What do I mean by approaching these topics with “sensitivity”? First, a productive conversation is always animated by humility. None of us know it all and we always have more to learn. This is not to say that confidence should be discouraged, but be ready to listen and to understand. Ask questions and be prepared to back up what you’re saying, or to say, “I was wrong” or “I may need to rethink that.”

Second, there is no place in this course for condescending language toward one another for any reason. Not only is it offensive, but it tends to hinder rather than help the conversation move along. You may think someone says something that is completely wrong, but disparaging another student's character, intelligence or identity closes people off to learning and often distracts us from the core ideas and arguments.

Tension, mystery, arguments, conflict, confrontation, division, disagreement and difference are at the heart of studying the presidency, and these elements are critical to a good class. But every person in a discussion must be treated with respect as persons with an inviolable dignity for the class to be productive and educational.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and/or plagiarism (the use of other's work without giving credit or attempting to pass it off as your own) will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent that college rules allow. You are here to learn, develop new skills and to think in new ways. Taking the easy way out does not serve you or your future.

It is not a good enough excuse to say, "I didn't know how to cite this!" Any time you quote or reference a source, proper citation is required. If you do not know how to cite something properly, I am more than happy to help you, as are the folks in the Center for Academic Success at Coates Hall B-31

You should also familiarize yourself with LSU's Code of Student Conduct, which can be found online, as it pertains to academic dishonesty. Students who are suspected of plagiarism or cheating will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability for an investigation and possible penalty. This investigation could result in a zero for the assignment in question or a failing grade for the course. A second violation (for your full LSU career, not only in this course) could result in a suspension or expulsion from the university. If you plagiarize or cheat on an assignment I am required to report the matter. The process is out of my jurisdiction after that. Please keep this in mind and realize that it does not matter *why* you cheat or plagiarize, doing so for any reason and under any conditions will trigger the university's investigative and disciplinary process for academic dishonesty. For more on LSU's definition of plagiarism, visit

<http://students.lsu.edu/saa/students/plagiarism>

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Updated 8/3/2017

PART I – ORIGINS OF THE PRESIDENCY

WEEK 1

Tuesday (8/22) Syllabus, Orientation, Introductions

Readings: Syllabus

**Did you miss the first day? A version of this introduction is recorded and available on Moodle

Thursday (8/24) Roots of the American Presidency

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Chs. 1-2
TEP Ch. 2

WEEK 2

Tuesday (8/29) The Presidency at the Constitutional Convention

Readings: *TEP* Ch. 1

READING QUIZ #1: Milkis & Nelson 1-2, *TEP* Chs. 1-2

Thursday (8/31) – Presidential Powers and Views of the Constitutional Presidency

No class, professor out of town for American Political Science Association

****View recorded lecture on Moodle. **Be sure to complete the online quiz for the attendance grade**

WEEK 3

Tuesday (9/5) Debating the Constitutional Presidency

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 3-4

Thursday (9/7) The Presidency and Precedents of George Washington

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 5 and 8
Milkis & Nelson Ch. 3

WEEK 4

Tuesday (9/12) The Rise of Opposition, Parties and New Challenges

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 6-7
Milkis & Nelson Ch. 4

Thursday (9/14) Adams to Jackson

Readings: *TEP*, Chs. 9-11, 13-14

READING QUIZ #2: Milkis & Nelson 3-4, *TEP* Chs. 3-7

WEEK 5

Tuesday (9/19) Origins of the Presidency Wrap- Up

SHORT ESSAY #1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Ch. 5

PART II - BECOMING THE PRESIDENT

Thursday (9/21) Development and Challenges of the Presidential Selection Process

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 12, 22
Milkis & Nelson Ch. 6

WEEK 6

Tuesday (9/26) Eligible Candidates, Pre-Campaign and the Nomination

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Ch. 7
TEP Chs. 41, 51

Thursday (9/28) Presidential Campaigns and Elections Continued

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Ch. 8

READING QUIZ #3: Milkis & Nelson 5-8, *TEP* 11 and 14

WEEK 7

Tuesday (10/3) The General Election and the Electoral College

**MIDTERM EXAM PART I AT END OF CLASS
MID TERM TAKE-HOME PART II, III HANDED OUT AT END OF CLASS**

PART III – BEING THE PRESIDENT

Thursday, (10/5) The Changing and Expanding Presidency

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Ch. 9
TEP Chs. 15-16, 23, 26, 31, 54

WEEK 8

Tuesday (10/10) The Public, the President, and the Media

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 17-18, 24, 47, 57
Milkis & Nelson 10

EXAM DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS – NO LATE EXAMS ACCEPTED

Thursday (10/12) Imagining the Presidency, the Rhetorical Presidency and Presidential Power

No class, professor out of town for Association of Political Theory

****View recorded lecture on Moodle. **Be sure to complete the online quiz for the attendance grade**

WEEK 9

Tuesday (10/17) Presidential Character and Performance

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Ch. 11

READING QUIZ#4: Milkis & Nelson 9-11, *TEP* 15-16, 23 and 31

Thursday (10/19) **NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**

WEEK 10

Tuesday (10/24) President and Political Parties

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Ch. 12

Thursday (10/26) President and Interest Groups

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Ch. 13
Daniel J. Tichenor, "The Presidency and Interest Groups" (Moodle)

WEEK 11:

Tuesday (10/31) The White House Staff, Organization and the Cabinet

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 30, 46
Milkis & Nelson Ch. 16

READING QUIZ #5: Milkis & Nelson 12-13, 16 *TEP* 30, 46

Thursday (11/2) The President and the Bureaucracy

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 21
Milkis & Nelson 14

WEEK 12:

Tuesday (11/7) President and Congress

Readings: Milkis & Nelson 15

Thursday (11/9) President and Congress

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 28, 38, 42, 49

SHORT ESSAY #2 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

WEEK 13

Tuesday (11/14) The President, Congress and Impeachment

No class, professor out of town for Guest Lecture in Ohio

****View recorded lecture on Moodle. **Be sure to complete the online quiz for the attendance grade**

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 20, 43, 50

Thursday (11/16) President and the Judiciary

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 19, 25, 27, 29

WEEK 14

Tuesday (11/21) President and the Judiciary

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 33, 44, 45, 55, 58

READING QUIZ #6: Milkis & Nelson 14-15, *TEP* 19, 21, 25-28, 42, 49

Thursday (11/23) – **No Class. Thanksgiving Break**

WEEK 15

Tuesday (11/28) Donald Trump and the Future of the Presidency

Readings: TBD

READING QUIZ #7: *TEP* 33, 44, 45, 55, 58

Thursday (11/30) Conclusion, Review and Catch-Up

Parts II, III of Final Exam Handed Out at End of Class

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, 12/6, 5:30-7:30pm
Part II, III Due at beginning
Part I administered during Final Exam period