

L32 Pol Sci 342 THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY*

M 2:30 to 4PM in Sever Hall #102

Professor Andrew Reeves

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Introduction

This course is a study of the origins, development, and operation of the American presidency. We will examine political science theories and concepts and apply them in the context of the executive branch. One of our central goals will be to identify the factors that are most important in influencing presidents. To this end, we will consider how presidents obtain office and the ways in which they govern. We will consider how other branches (e.g. courts, Congress), public opinion, and the media influence the actions of the president. We will also consider presidential accountability — for what do voters hold the commander-in-chief accountable?

1 Course Expectations

1.1 What are we doing today?

This syllabus presents the course schedule in Section 2. It is subject to change, any of which will be announced in class. Students who miss class are responsible for consulting the latest version of the syllabus to learn of the changes.

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Students should come to class having completed the readings listed in Section 2 of the syllabus for the respective class meeting. All readings are posted on blackboard. There are no required texts for purchase for this course.

Some classes will consist of of short to medium length lectures with discussion both as a class and in small groups. Other classes will consist entirely of discussion of that week's readings.

1.2 Assignments

- In-class Reading Quizzes (20%): Unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. Lowest score dropped. Quizzes will be about 5 question and consist of true / false or short identification question.
- Short Paper (25%): Due December 5 by 5PM (turned in via email); 4 to 6 pages; Topics handed out in class along with a handout detailing expectations.
- Presentation based on paper (5%): In class on December 1 and December 3.
- First Exam (25%): In class on October 15.
- Second Exam (25%): In class on November 24.

1.3 Grading Scale

Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade
≥ 94	A	≥ 83	B	≥ 73	C	≥ 63	D
≥ 90	A-	≥ 80	B-	≥ 70	C-	≥ 60	D-
≥ 87	B+	≥ 77	C+	≥ 67	D+	< 60	Fail

2 Course Policies

Academic Integrity. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be completed individually. Plagiarism is unacceptable. Students should see me or the teaching assistant if he or she has the slightest question about or concern of potentially committing this most horrendous academic offense. Students should adhere to all ethical codes set forth by Washington University. Please carefully review the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Conduct Code at <http://wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html>. Cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the academic integrity committee, and students found guilty will receive a failing grade in the course.

Regrades. If you would like a regrade, you must prepare a one page memo describing why you would like additional credit for your response. You must submit a hard copy of this memo to your TA within 24 hours of when the assignment is returned. If I accept the appeal, I will regrade your *entire* assignment. The re-grade will replace the original grade and may be lower than the original. Except in the case of an obvious oversight on the teaching staff, there will be no partial or spot regrades of an assignment. While I am happy to meet with any student to discuss a grade, I require that you first meet with your teaching assistant to discuss the matter.

Late work. Work is considered late if it is not turned in when collected in class or, in other cases, immediately after the established deadline.

Late work is accepted but penalized. Papers received within 12 hours after the deadline will be deducted half a letter grade (a B becomes a B-). Papers received between 12 hours and 24 hours after the deadline will be penalized a full letter grade, and so on.

Extensions. Extensions are offered under the same terms as late work (see above).

Religious observances. If any conflicts arise between religious observances and a class assignment, notify at least two weeks beforehand and I will work with you to find an alternate means to complete the assignment.

Accommodations. If you are qualified for learning, testing, or access accommodations, inform me during the first week of class. For further information see <http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/DisabilityResources.aspx>.

Required Texts

There are no texts required for purchase. Our primary text will be a draft of a new textbook. You are encouraged to provide feedback either to me or directly to the author (details provided in class).

Howell, William. forthcoming. *An American Presidency: Institutional Foundations of Executive Politics*.

Course Schedule

What follows is a schedule for the course detailing which topics and readings will be discussed on what dates. All readings should be completed by class on the date listed.

I reserve the right to make any and all changes to this schedule and I will provide you with ample notification if do so.

1. August 25: Overview and Introduction
2. August 27: Meeting of the American Political Science Association. No class.

3. September 1: Labor Day No class.
4. September 3: Constitutional Origins
 - Howell, Chapter 1.
 - Read the entire U.S. Constitution paying special attention to Articles I and II.
5. September 8: Constitutional Origins, cont.
 - Robert A. Dahl. 2001. *How Democratic is the American Constitution?* Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.. pp. 62 to 72.
 - Jack N. Rakove. 2009. *The Annotated U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence.* Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.. pp. 172 to 194.
6. September 10: The Rise of the Institutional Presidency
 - Howell, Chapter 2.
7. September 15: Power and the Institutional Presidency
 - Howell, Chapter 3.
8. September 17: The Personal President
 - Fred I. Greenstein. 2005. “The Person of the President, Leadership, and Greatness” in *The Executive Branch* eds Joel D. Aberbach and Mark A. Peterson, p. 218–242.
 - Robert A. Caro. 2012. *The Passage of Power: The Years of Lyndon Johnson.* Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Chapter 17. p. 437–451.
9. September 22: Power to what end?
 - Douglas L. Kriner and Andrew Reeves. 2015. *The Particularistic President.* Cambridge University Press, New York. Chapter 1.
10. September 24: Nominating Candidates
 - Howell, Chapter 4.
 - Ray E. Boomhower. 2008. *Robert F. Kennedy and the 1968 Indiana Primary.* Indiana University Press, Bloomington. Chapter 3.
11. September 29: General Elections: An overview
 - Howell, Chapter 5.
12. October 1: General Elections: Presidential Accountability (?)
 - Andrew J. Healy, Neil Malhotra, and Cecilia Hyunjung Mo. 2010. “Irrelevant events affect voters’ evaluations of government performance.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 107(29):12804–12809.
 - Christopher H. Achen and Larry M. Bartels. 2004. “Blind Retrospection: Electoral Responses to Drought, Flu, and Shark Attacks.” Typescript.

13. October 6: Presidential Elections and Public Policy

- Douglas L. Kriner and Andrew Reeves. 2015. “Presidential Particularism and Divide-the-Dollar Politics.” *American Political Science Review* 109(1):XXX–XXX..
- Larry M. Bartels. 2008. *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.. Chapters 2 and 4.

14. October 8: Transition to Governance

- Howell, Chapter 6.
- Jonathan Alter. 2010. *The Promise: President Obama, Year One*. Simon & Schuster, New York. Chapter 4.

Recommended:

- Robert A. Caro. 2012. “The Transition: The Day L.B.J Took Charge.” *The New Yorker* April 2(32–49).
- Martha Joynt Kumar and Terry Sullivan. 2003. *The White House World: Transitions, Organization, and Office Operations*. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX.

15. October 13: Exam Review.

16. October 15: Exam #1

17. October 20: Interactions with Congress

- Howell, Chapter 7.

Recommended

- Robert A. Caro. 2012. *The Passage of Power: The Years of Lyndon Johnson*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Chapter 23.
- Charles Cameron. 2002. “Studying the Polarized Presidency.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 32(4):647–663.

18. October 22: Interactions with Congress, cont.

- George C. Edwards III. 2009. *The Strategic President: Persuasion and Opportunity in Presidential Leadership*. Princeton University Press,. Chapter 4.

19. October 27: Unilateral Policymaking

- Howell, Chapter 8.

Recommended

- Charles M. Cameron. 2000. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Chapter XX.
- Justice Jackson’s concurring opinion in *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer* <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/343/579/case.html#634>.

- Adam Liptak. 2006. “Focus of Hearings Quickly Turns to Limits of Presidential Power.” *New York Times*.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/10/politics/politicsspecial1/10legal.html>.

20. October 29: Unilateral Policymaking, cont.

- Kenneth R. Mayer. 1999. “Executive Orders and Presidential Power.” *Journal of Politics* 61(2):445–466.
- Terry M. Moe and William G. Howell. 1999. “The presidential power of unilateral action.” *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 15(1):132–179.

Recommended

- Fang-Yi Chiou and Lawrence S. Rothenberg. 2014. “The Elusive Search for Presidential Power.” *American Journal of Political Science* 58(3):653–668.

21. November 3: Political Control of the Bureaucracy

- Howell, Chapter 9.
- Sanford C. Gordon. 2011. “Politicizing Agency Spending Authority: Lessons from a Bush-era Scandal.” *American Political Science Review* 105(4):717–734.

Recommended

- David E. Lewis. 2012. “The Contemporary Presidency: The Personnel Process in the Modern Presidency.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 42(3):577–596.
- Brandon Rottinghaus and Daniel E. Bergan. 2011. “The Politics of Requesting Appointments: Congressional Requests in the Appointment and Nomination Process.” *Political Research Quarterly* 64(1):31–44.

22. November 5: Interactions with the Judiciary

- Howell, Chapter 10.

23. November 10: Interactions with the Judiciary, cont.

24. November 12: Public Opinion and the Media

- Howell, Chapter 11.

25. November 17: Public Opinion and the Media, cont.

- Douglas L. Kriner and Andrew Reeves. 2015. *The Particularistic President*. Cambridge University Press, New York. Chapters 2 and 6.

26. November 19: Class presentations.

27. November 24: Exam #2.

28. November 26: No Class: Thanksgiving Break.

29. December 1: Class presentations.

30. December 3: No class (individual meetings).