L32 Pol Sci 342 The American Presidency*

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

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00-3:30

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.

*This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. Students who miss class are responsible for consulting the latest version of the syllabus to learn of any changes. It was last updated Sunday 16th November, 2014 at 09:52.
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 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

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<td>≥ 77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td>Fail</td>
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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](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).


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

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.

   - Howell, Chapter 2.

7. September 15: Power and the Institutional Presidency
   - Howell, Chapter 3.

8. September 17: The Personal President

9. September 22: Power to what end?

10. September 24: Nominating Candidates
    - Howell, Chapter 4.

11. September 29: General Elections: An overview
    - Howell, Chapter 5.

12. October 1: General Elections: Presidential Accountability (?)
13. October 6: Presidential Elections and Public Policy


14. October 8: Transition to Governance

- Howell, Chapter 6.

Recommended:


15. October 13: Exam Review.

16. October 15: Exam #1

17. October 20: Interactions with Congress

- Howell, Chapter 7.

Recommended


18. October 22: Interactions with Congress, cont.


19. October 27: Unilateral Policymaking

- Howell, Chapter 8.

Recommended


Recommended


21. November 3: Political Control of the Bureaucracy

• Howell, Chapter 9.

Recommended


22. November 5: Interactions with the Judiciary

• Howell, Chapter 10.


24. November 12: Public Opinion and the Media

• Howell, Chapter 11.


27. November 24: Exam #2.


29. December 1: Class presentations.

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