

## **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 nomination and election of presidents; the way presidential office is working and organized; and the presidential governance in relation with the public, the mass media, Congress, other executive branches, and Judiciary. Lastly, we will look at how presidents engage and exert power in making domestic, economic, and foreign policies. The prerequisite is Political Science 220 - Introduction to American Government, or permission from instructor.

Pre-requisite: American government and politics (Pol220)

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 full class hour will be allotted for the exams. Each student is required to make a presentation of a topic that they select to do, and will receive a discussion grade based on the presentation, engagement with the readings and with the idea 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 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>rd</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