

# COURSE SYLLABUS -- THE PRESIDENCY

The Presidency (POS 3413)  
Spring 2008  
M/W 7:50 pm - 9:05 pm

Instructor: David Twigg, PhD  
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## **Office Hours:**

**M/W** 1:00 - 5:30 pm; **T/Th** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; & **F** 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

*Or by appointment*

## **Overview:**

This course is a study of the United States' chief executive – the governmental institution called the presidency. We will strive to understand the development of the institution as well as the power (and limitations) individuals have when they achieve the office. What is it really like to be president? How are presidents selected and how are they deselected? How do they govern? What are the checks and balances exercised on – and by – the president?

There is no prerequisite requirement for the course, but students may find there is advantage in having taken POS 2042, American Government, or an equivalent.

## **Required Texts:**

1) Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson. The American Presidency: Origins and Development 1776 – 2007. Fifth Edition. CQ Press. Washington, D.C. 2008.

2) Michael Beschloss. Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America 1789-1989. Simon & Schuster. New York. 2007.

## **Course Requirements and Grades:**

\* There are three overlapping aspects of the learning experience: 1) books; 2) class lectures and discussions; and 3) student research. Students will need to read the texts to achieve the first (and prepare for the second). Students need to attend and participate in class to achieve the second, and anyone missing more than four classes can expect to have his/her course grade reduced. To achieve the third, students will have to spend some time in the library, researching, thinking, and writing. With this combined level of effort a good grade is possible – without this level of effort a good grade is doubtful.

\*\* The presidency is a living, breathing institution and will be evolving even as we meet for class each week. Primary season is upon us! Keep up with the news and pay attention to how things unfold in real life so we can relate reality to our study.

\*\*\* There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, and a 10-12 page term paper, each of which will be worth 1/3 of the course grade.

\*\*\* Course grade will be according to the following scale:

90-100 = A	70-77 = C
88-89 = B+	68-69 = D+
80-87 = B	60-67 = D
78-79 = C+	Below 60 = F

**Course Outline:**

Week One: January 7 & 9, 2008:

Introduction and International Comparisons

Read: Milkis Chapter 1

Week Two: January 14 and 16:

Creating the Presidency

Read: Milkis Chapters 2 & 3

Week Three: Martin Luther King Birthday Holiday & January 23:

Elections

Read: Beschloss Chapters 1-8

**Week Four: January 28 & 30:**

Elections continued & Exit Strategies

Read: Milkis Chapters 4 & 5

**Due this Week: Paper Proposal:**

This is a one to two page proposal about what you are going to write about in your term paper. Lay out what your theme will be (see topic options below). In what manner are you going to compare/contrast two presidencies? There are three options for a topic:

Option 1) Compare and contrast the presidencies of Andrew Jackson and William J. (Bill) Clinton.

Option 2) Compare and Contrast the presidencies of Richard M. Nixon and George W. Bush.

Option 3) If you absolutely cannot figure out how to handle either of these first two options, take *either* G.W. Bush *or* W.J. Clinton, and compare/contrast that presidency with another presidency of your choice. Make a strong argument in your proposal, but there are other interesting matches like Clinton/Kennedy, Clinton/A. Johnson, Bush/Reagan, Bush/Wilson, Bush/Bush, etc.

Clinton and Jackson both got into trouble with their congresses (and Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton were both impeached). Bush and Nixon both have worked to consolidate power. Clinton has credited Kennedy for much of his inspiration and drive; Bush has credited Reagan. The Bushes both went to war with Iraq; both saw Aristide removed from power in Haiti. Wilson and Bush were both convinced of the rightness of their policies because of religious/moral convictions. Do not focus on one policy. Look at institutional relationships, general themes.

Tentatively identify your sources. Find several academic sources (defined as journals and books). Do not use the Internet, World Book, Encarta, or other encyclopedia sources (academic journals accessed through the Internet are fine). Lots of things are written about presidents by academics, (political scientists, historians, etc.), by people who worked with them and by presidents themselves. Use the text books as appropriate.

The term paper itself should be 10 to 12 pages, of text (not including reference page or title page), 12-pitch Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. **The paper itself is due the week of March 31.**

Plagiarism will not be accepted. Do your own work. Use proper referencing uniformly throughout your paper; footnotes OR endnotes OR bibliography with proper referencing in the text, (i.e. Twigg 2004, p.25). Students must submit papers through the Turnitin plagiarism-checking web site (details on the last page). Please use proper spelling, English grammar, punctuation, paragraphing, and number the pages.

Week Five: February 4 & 6:

Jefferson and Jackson

Read: Beschloss Chapters 9-12

Week Six: February 11 & 13:

Crisis and Institutionalization

Read: Milkis Chapter 6 & Beschloss Chapters 13-16

Week Seven: February 18 & 20:

Review for (18<sup>th</sup>) and Midterm Exam (20<sup>th</sup>)

Week Eight: February 25 & 27:

Reaction and Separation; The Modern Presidency

Read: Milkis Chapters 7, 8 & 9

Week Nine: March 3 & 5:

The Veep, and Domestic Policy

Read Milkis Chapters 16 & Beschloss Chapters 17-20

Week Ten: March 10 & 12:

The Swinging of the Pendulum, Critical Elections

Read: Milkis Chapters 10, 11 and 12

Week Eleven: March 24 & 26:

Presidential War Powers

Read: Beschloss Chapters 21-28

**Week Twelve: March 31 & April 2:**

The 1980s Presidents

Read: Milkis Chapter 13 & Beschloss Chapters 29-32

**Term Papers Due This Week**

Week Thirteen: April 7 & 9:

The 1990s President ;

Read: Milkis Chapter 14 & Beschloss Chapters 33-36

Week Fourteen: April 14 & 16:

2000 and Beyond

Read: Milkis Chapter 15 & Beschloss Epilogue

Catch up and Review for Final Exam

Syllabus Addendum – The Presidents of the United States of America  
(as of December 27, 2005)

1.	George Washington	1789-1797 (2 full terms)	Federalist
2.	John Adams	1797-1801 (1 full term)	Federalist
3.	Thomas Jefferson	1801-1809 (2 full terms)	Democrat-Republican
4.	James Madison	1809-1817 (2 full terms)	Democrat-Republican
5.	James Monroe	1817-1825 (2 full terms)	Democrat-Republican
6.	John Q. Adams	1825-1829 (1 full term)	Democrat-Republican
7.	Andrew Jackson	1829-1837 (2 full terms)	Dem-Rep → Democrat
8.	Martin Van Buren	1837-1841 (1 full term)	Democrat
9.	William H. Harrison	1841-1841 (1 month- died)	Whig
10.	John Tyler	1841-1845 (< 1 term)	Whig
11.	James K. Polk	1845-1849 (1 full term)	Democrat
12.	Zachary Taylor	1849-1850 (16 months-died)	Whig
13.	Millard Fillmore	1850-1853 (< 1 term)	Whig
14.	Franklin Pierce	1853-1857 (1 full term)	Democrat
15.	James Buchanan	1857-1861 (1 full term)	Democrat
16.	Abraham Lincoln	1861-1865 (1 term, 1 month-died)	Republican → Unionist
17.	Andrew Johnson	1865-1869 (< 1 term)	Unionist (Democrat)
18.	Ulysses S. Grant	1869-1877 (2 full terms)	Republican
19.	Rutherford B. Hayes	1877-1881 (1 full term)	Republican
20.	James A. Garfield	1881-1881 (@ 6 months – died)	Republican
21.	Chester A. Arthur	1881-1885 (< 1 term – died)	Republican
22.	Grover Cleveland	1885-1889 (1 full term)	Democrat
23.	Benjamin Harrison	1889-1893 (1 full term)	Republican
24.	Grover Cleveland	1893-1897 (1 full term)	Democrat
25.	William McKinley	1897-1901 (1 term, 6 months-died)	Republican
26.	Theodore Roosevelt	1901-1909 (< 2 terms)	Republican
27.	William H. Taft	1909-1913 (1 full term)	Republican
28.	Woodrow Wilson	1913-1921 (2 full terms)	Democrat
29.	Warren G. Harding	1921-1923 (2 years, 2 months-died)	Republican
30.	Calvin Coolidge	1923-1929 (2 full terms)	Republican
31.	Herbert Hoover	1929-1933 (1 full term)	Republican
32.	Franklin D. Roosevelt	1933-1945 (3 terms, 3 months-died)	Democrat
33.	Harry S Truman	1945-1953 (< 2 terms)	Democrat
34.	Dwight D. Eisenhower	1953-1961 (2 full terms)	Republican
35.	John F. Kennedy	1961-1963 (2 years, 10 months-died)	Democrat
36.	Lyndon B. Johnson	1963- 1969 (< 2 terms)	Democrat
37.	Richard M. Nixon	1969-1974 (1 term, 1 ½ years-resigned)	Republican
38.	Gerald R. Ford	1974-1977 (< 1 term)	Republican
39.	Jimmy Carter	1977-1981 (1 full term)	Democrat
40.	Ronald Reagan	1981-1989 (2 full terms)	Republican
41.	George Bush	1989-1993 (1 full term)	Republican
42.	William J. Clinton	1993-2001 (2 full terms)	Democrat
43.	George W. Bush	2001-?	Republican
44.	Your Prediction		

Sources: Bragdon, Henry W. and Samuel P. McCutchen, History of a Free People, Fifth Revised Edition, New York: The Macmillan Company, 1964; Miklis, Sidney M. and Michael Nelson, The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2002, Fourth Edition, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. 2003; McDonald, Forrest, The American Presidency: An Intellectual History, Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1994.

## **Presidency Spring 2008 Turnitin.com Paper Submission Instructions**

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As noted in the course syllabus, the term paper for this course will be submitted electronically through turnitin.com.

*Note: Students should be aware that once the paper is submitted electronically, it will permanently remain in the database of turnitin.com.*

**You will need this** class identification number: **2052697**  
and the class enrollment password: **Primaries** (hey, it's the presidency, this is the season ....)

If you *have* used this service before, that should be all the information you need. If you *have not* used this service before, please note the following instructions:

Go to <http://www.turnitin.com> home page, click on New Users, and follow the instructions for creating a user profile for yourself. You will need the class identification number and class enrollment password given above, and your name and email address; the process is simple and user friendly.

Once you have your user profile established you can log into turnitin.com for any number of classes for which you have the class ID and enrollment password. Submitting an assignment is like attaching a file to an email. You should not have any trouble with this, if you do send me an email and we will figure it out together.

Note that the Turnitin website offers tutorials on using the system and on what plagiarism is (and what to avoid).