

Political Science 4180(H)  
Spring 2005  
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### The Chief Executive

The U.S. Presidency is an enormously dynamic institution. The character of the institution is so much a function of the personality of the president and the tenor of his times that it is difficult to know if the systematic study of the presidency is possible. For this semester we will focus on the possibility of isolating patterns in the conduct of the presidency that bind and can be used to compare one Administration to the next. In order to understand the presidency, it is important to study everything from the offices that comprise the presidential branch to the personality of the individual who serves as President. By the end of the quarter, students will be expected to address the question as to whether the systematic study of the presidency is possible.

#### Class Sessions

Class sessions will consist primarily of lecture and discussion of the weekly readings. Students will also be expected to come to class prepared (having read that week's assignment in advance) to answer questions or refer to the assigned readings.

#### Course Work

For this course there will be an in-class midterm, a take home midterm, and a final exam. Class participation and attendance count. Course work will be weighted as follows:

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Take Home Exam - 25%  
In-Class Midterm - 25%  
Attendance and Participation – 10%  
Final Exam - 40%

#### Class Readings

The following texts will be available for purchase at the Park Place book store:

Pika, et.al., Politics of the Presidency, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

Pfiffner and Davidson, Understanding the Presidency, 3rd ed.

The Posc 4180 "Reader" (Occasional short readings On-line on the WebCt)

## **General Policies**

- **WEBCT: Students will be expected to periodically check the course home page on the WebCT. Any postings on the Web are expected to be read by students within 24 hours of their original posting.**
- **MAKE-UP EXAMS will not be given except in the most extenuating circumstances (nuclear attack, catastrophic earthquake, the second coming, etc.).**
- **ATTENDANCE is not required. However, students will have problems doing well in this course without attending class regularly. I do note long absences from class and will consider**
- **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY is defined as the unattributed use of someone else's ideas or writings. *Originality is a standard used for evaluating student work. Any assignment that is demonstrably not the student's own original work is subject to a failing grade.***
- **SOURCING: An unattributed quote or factual statement is, by definition, *untrue* and will not be considered as evidence in support of an assertion made in a formal paper. Citing a secondary source, itself, is not sufficient unless the secondary source cites a primary source.**
- **DECORUM: No sleeping or eating in class (drinks are ok). No leaving in the middle of class without first informing the instructor.**

**Notice: *The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.***

## Course Outline

**Week One - (January 13) Studying the Presidency**

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 1**

**Week Two - (January 20) Constitutional Structure**

**Readings: U.S. Constitution - Articles 1 and 2**

**The Federalist Papers - Nos. 10,67-77**

**Pfiffner – Readings 1 and 5**

**Week Three - (January 27) The Presidency in Comparative Perspective**

**Readings: Pfiffner: Readings 34 – 35**

**Graham K. Wilson, Only in America? The Politics of the United States in Comparative Perspective (Chatham, NJ: Chatham House Publishers, 1998) Chapter 6 (on the WebCt)**

**Colin Campbell, The U.S. Presidency in Crisis: A Comparative Perspective (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998) Chapter 1 (on the WebCT)**

**Nelson C. Dometrius, "Governors: Their Heritage and Future," American State and Local Politics: Directions for the 21st Century, eds. Ronald E. Weber and Paul Brace (New York: Chatham House Publishers, 1999) (on the WebCT)**

**Week Four - (February 3) Presidential History**

**Readings: Pfiffner – Section Two (all)**

**Week Five - (February 10) Presidential Elections (Primaries)**

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 2**

**Pfiffner – Section Three (all)**

**Week Six - (February 17) Presidential Elections Cont. (General)**

**Readings: Same as above**

***Bush v Gore* (On-line)**

**Week Seven - (February 24) Presidential Character**

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 4**

**Pfiffner – Readings 46 and 47**

**Week Eight - (March 3) Presidential Character (Cont.)**

**Readings: Same as Above**

**FIRST MIDTERM (March 3) - In Class Exam**

**SPRING BREAK (March 7 - 13)**

**Week Ten - (March 17) The Institutional Presidency (EOP)**

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 6**

**Pfiffner – Readings 25, 26, and 28**

**Week Eleven - (March 24) The Institutional Presidency (The Bureaucracy)**

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 9**

**Pfiffner – Readings 27, 29, 30, and 31**

**Week Twelve - (March 31) The President and the Judiciary**

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 7**

**Pfiffner – Reading 36**

**Week Thirteen – (April 7) The President and Congress**

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 5**

**Pfiffner – Readings 32 and 33**

**Week Fourteen - (April 14) *Tactics: "Going Public"***

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 3**

**Pfiffner – Readings 21, 22, and 23**

**PAPER DUE - Take Home Midterm Due - APRIL 11**

**Week Fifteen - (April 21) The Two Presidencies (Domestic Policy)**

**Readings: Wildavsky (on line)**

**Pika – Chapter 8**

**Pfiffner – Section Seven (all)**

**Week Sixteen – (April 28) The Two Presidencies (Foreign Policy)**

**Readings: Pika – Chapter 10**

**Pfiffner – Section Eight (all)**

**Final Exam: Monday, May 5, at 10:15 a.m.**