

Course Syllabus

POS4413: The American Presidency

YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Professor Dustin Fridkin, PhD

Office: AND303

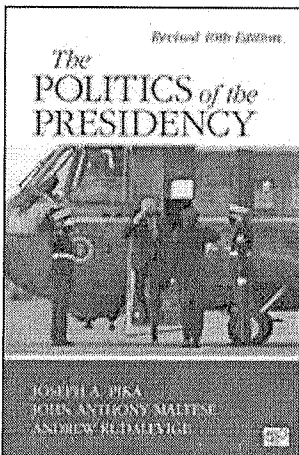
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Preferred mode of out-of-class communication: Canvas message

Course description

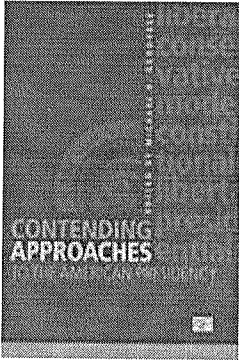
Politics is a struggle for power. To borrow a phrase from the great political scientist **Harold Lasswell** (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Lasswell) (1902-1978), politics is the business of determining who gets what, when, and how. This course will look at the role of the President of the United States in the American political system. The focus of the course will be the modern (post-1945) presidency, though we will spend some time examining the historical development of presidential power. Topics will include the constitutional bases of presidential power, the institutional structure of the presidency, and relations with other institutions including the media, Congress, the bureaucracy, and the courts, and the role of the president in domestic and foreign policy. We will also, from time to time, discuss current events with an eye toward understanding what's going on from a political science perspective.

Required textbooks



(<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/the-politics-of-the-presidency/book265116>)

The Politics of the Presidency, 10th Edition, by Joseph A. Pika, John Anthony Maltese, and Andrew Rudalevici. CQ Press. ISBN 9781544389967 (abbreviated POTP below)



([https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/contending-approaches-to-the-american-](https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/contending-approaches-to-the-american-presidency/book237107)

[presidency/book237107](https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/contending-approaches-to-the-american-presidency/book237107))

Contending Approaches to the American Presidency, edited by Michael A. Genovese. CQ Press. ISBN 9781608717064 (abbreviated CAAP below)

Additional readings will be made available by the professor.

Course Assignments

Attendance and participation: Students are expected to attend class meetings having done the assigned readings and prepared to engage in discussions of the readings.

Weekly quizzes: Students will be required to complete weekly quizzes on Canvas. The quizzes will be on the material we've covered both in and out of class..

Response essays: Students will write four response essays on the topics we're covering in this class. These will be relatively short essays (3-4 pages) that are designed to give the students an opportunity to draw connections across the material we've covered and critically evaluate the arguments contained therein.

Literature review: As a final essay, students will write a literature review on a topic related to the politics of the American presidency. The literature review should be 8-10 pages.

Grading Policy

Attendance and participation: 20%

Weekly quizzes: 15%

Response essays: 40%

Final essay: 25%

Grade Scale

90% or higher – A

87% – 89.9% – B+

80% – 86.9% – B

77% – 79.9% – C+

70% – 76.9% – C

67% – 69.9% – D+

60% – 66.9% – D

59.9% or lower – F

Late Work/Make-up Assignments

Work that is not submitted by the deadline will automatically receive a zero. Work turned in after the deadline will be subject to a penalty of 10% per day. That means you have ten days to receive at least partial credit for any assignment. This is important, because partial credit > zero credit.

I do not offer make-up assignments. If you are experiencing a crisis, let me know ASAP, and we may be able to work out a plan. If you wait to contact me, it may be too late.

Communication

The best way to reach me is through the Canvas message system. Most messages will be answered within 48 hours during the week. If you contact me over the weekend, I will respond by the start of the following work week.

Statement of Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the use of ideas, facts, opinions, illustrative material, data, direct or indirect wording of another scholar and/or writer—professional or student—without giving proper credit. Cheating extends to other activities such as working with others on exams or copying other students' work (or other activities that are prohibited by the instructions in an assignment). Any assignments involving plagiarism or other cheating will receive anything from a reduction in points, a zero for the assignment, failure in the course or similar penalty and could possibly be referred to the dean for further action.

Required Technology

This course has no special technological requirements other than **regular access to the internet**. The course does not require any special hardware, though having speakers or headphones might be helpful with the frequent videos.

Technical Support

Help for Canvas, our course management system, is available 24/7 by clicking the help button on the left of your browser window.

Reading Schedule

Tuesday	Thursday
	8/24 Introduction to the course
8/29 Article II of the Constitution	8/31 POTP chpt 1: The Changing Presidency
9/5 Linz (1990) " The Perils of Presidentialism (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/files/80266423?wrap=1)"	9/7 POTP chpt 2: Election Politics
9/12 "Going Public" article TBD	9/15 POTP chpt 3: Public Politics
9/19 Review of Skowronek's Politics Presidents Make	9/21 POTP chpt 4: Presidential Character
9/26 Article I of the Constitution	9/28 POTP chpt 5: Legislative Politics
10/3 CAAP chpt 4: Toward a Constitutional Presidency	10/5 POTP chpt 6: Executive Politics
10/10 The Politicization of the Supreme Court TBD	10/12 POTP chpt 7: Judicial Politics
10/17 CAAP chpt 3: Liberals and the Presidency	10/19 POTP chpt 8: Domestic Politics
10/24 CAAP chpt 1: Conservatives and the Presidency	10/26 POTP chpt 9: Economic Politics
10/31 CAAP chpt 5: The Unitary Executive	11/2 POTP chpt 10: National Security
11/7 Case Studies: Truman and Eisenhower TBD	11/9 TBD
11/14 Case Studies: Nixon, Ford, Carter TBD	11/16 TBD
11/21 THANKSGIVING BREAK	11/23 THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/28 Case Studies: Reagan and Clinton TBD	11/30 Case Studies: Bush, Obama, Trump TBD
12/5 Case Studies: Biden and the future	

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Sep 3, 2023	 Module 1 Quiz: The Changing Presidency (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5818899)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 10, 2023	 Module 2 Quiz: Election Politics (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819817)	due by 11:59pm
	 Research Question (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5833604)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 17, 2023	 Module 3 Quiz: Popular Politics (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819821)	due by 11:59pm
	 Essay 1 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5820431)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 24, 2023	 Module 4 Quiz: Presidential Character and Performance (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819831)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 1, 2023	 Module 5 Quiz: Legislative Politics (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819899)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 8, 2023	 Module 6 Quiz: Executive Politics (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819900)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 15, 2023	 Essay 2 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5820432)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 <u>Module 7 Quiz: Judicial Politics</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819903	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 22, 2023	 <u>Module 8 Quiz: Domestic Politics</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819893	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 29, 2023	 <u>Module 9 Quiz: Economic Politics</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819921	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 5, 2023	 <u>Module 10 Quiz: National Security Politics</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5819925	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 12, 2023	 <u>Essay 3</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5820434	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 19, 2023	 <u>Lit Review Rough Draft</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5833605	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 3, 2023	 <u>Essay 4</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5820435	due by 11:59pm
Tue Dec 12, 2023	 <u>Literature Review Final Draft</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5820430	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Roll Call Attendance</u> https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/489609/assignments/5838559	