

## Course Syllabus

 Edit

POS4413: The American Presidency

### YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Professor Dustin Fridkin, PhD

Office Location & Hours: TBD

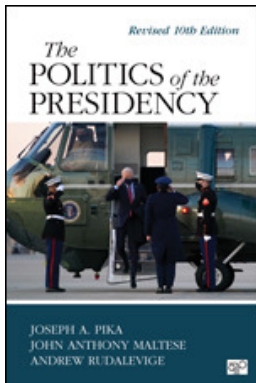
Email: [dfridkin@ufl.edu](mailto:dfridkin@ufl.edu) (<mailto:dfridkin@ufl.edu>)

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

## Course description

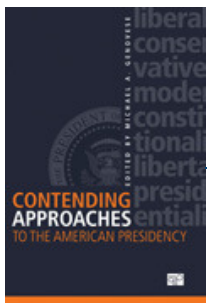
Politics is a struggle for power. To borrow a phrase from the great political scientist [Harold Lasswell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Lasswell) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold\\_Lasswell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Lasswell)) (1902-1978), politics is the business of determining 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 Rudalevige. CQ Press. ISBN 9781544389967 (abbreviated POTP below)



(<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 (roughly 5000 words).

## Grading Policy

Attendance and participation: 15%

Weekly quizzes: 15%

Response essays: 30%

Literature Review: 40%

## 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.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#)  (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.


## 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.

## Disability and Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#)  (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## Audio/Visual Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code & Student Conduct Code.

## Student Resources

**Health and Wellness:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) (<mailto:umatter@ufl.edu>), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care](https://umatter.ufl.edu/) [\(https://umatter.ufl.edu/\)](https://umatter.ufl.edu/) website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](https://counseling.ufl.edu/) [\(https://counseling.ufl.edu/\)](https://counseling.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

**Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](https://shcc.ufl.edu/) [\(https://shcc.ufl.edu/\)](https://shcc.ufl.edu/).

**University Police Department:** [Visit UF Police Department website](https://police.ufl.edu/) [\(https://police.ufl.edu/\)](https://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

**UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center)  [\(https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center\)](https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

**GatorWell Health Promotion Services:** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/) [\(https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/\)](https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/) or call 352-273-4450.

**E-learning technical support:** Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) (<mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu>).

**Career Connections Center:** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. [Career assistance and counseling services](https://career.ufl.edu/) [\(https://career.ufl.edu/\)](https://career.ufl.edu/).

**Library Support:** Various ways to receive [assistance with respect to using the libraries](https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask)  [\(https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask\)](https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask) or finding resources.

**Teaching Center:** Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. [General study skills and tutoring](https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/) [\(https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/\)](https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/).






**Writing Studio:** 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. [Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers](https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/) [\(https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/\)](https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/).

**Student Complaints On-Campus:** [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/) [\(https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/\)](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/) for more information.

## Reading Schedule






Reading schedule, with links to readings outside of your primary textbook


<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
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1/9 Introduction to the course	1/11 <a href="https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution">The United States Constitution</a>  ( <a href="https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution">https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution</a> )
1/16 <a href="https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution">Article II of the Constitution</a>  ( <a href="https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution">https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution</a> )	1/18 POTP chpt 1: The Changing Presidency
1/23 Linz (1990) " <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953542?wrap=1">The Perils of Presidentialism</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953542?wrap=1">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953542?wrap=1</a> )."	1/25 POTP chpt 2: Election Politics
1/30 " <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953544?wrap=1">Going Public in an Era of Social Media: Tweets, Corrections, and Public Opinion</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953544?wrap=1">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953544?wrap=1</a> ).(2021) by Christenson, Kreps and Kriner	2/1 POTP chpt 3: Public Politics ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943471">Research Question</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943471">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943471</a> ) due 2/4)
2/6 " <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953545?wrap=1">Presidential Leadership in Political Time</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953545?wrap=1">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953545?wrap=1</a> ). (2003) by Stephen Skowronek	2/8 POTP chpt 4: Presidential Character ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943466">Essay 1</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943466">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943466</a> ) due 2/11)
2/13 <a href="https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution">Article I of the Constitution</a>  ( <a href="https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution">https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution</a> ).	2/15 POTP chpt 5: Legislative Politics
2/20 CAAP chpt 4: <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953547?wrap=1">Toward a Constitutional Presidency</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953547?wrap=1">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953547?wrap=1</a> ).  ( <a href="https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution">https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution</a> )	2/22 POTP chpt 6: Executive Politics
2/27 " <a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/26595678">Going Public: Presidential Impact on Supreme Court Decision-Making</a>  ( <a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/26595678">https://www.jstor.org/stable/26595678</a> )."  " <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/84156039?wrap=1">Understanding Supreme Court Confirmations</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/84156039?wrap=1">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/84156039?wrap=1</a> )."	2/29 POTP chpt 7: Judicial Politics
3/5 CAAP chpt 3: <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953549?wrap=1">Liberals and the Presidency</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953549?wrap=1">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953549?wrap=1</a> ).	3/7 POTP chpt 8: Domestic Politics ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5947228">Outline &amp; Works Cited</a> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5947228">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5947228</a> ) due 3/10)
3/12 SPRING BREAK	3/14 SPRING BREAK

3/19 CAAP chpt 1: <b>Conservatives and the Presidency</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83960619?wrap=1">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83960619?wrap=1</a> )	3/21 POTP chpt 9: Economic Politics ( <b>ONLINE ASSIGNMENT</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943465">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943465</a> ) )
3/26 CAAP chpt 5: <b>The Unitary Executive</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953546?wrap=1">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/files/83953546?wrap=1</a> )	3/28 POTP chpt 10: National Security
4/2-4/4 Writing week: <b>rough draft</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943470">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943470</a> ), due Sunday, 4/7. Prof Fridkin will be out of town but available to meet via <b>Zoom</b> ↗ ( <a href="https://sfcollege.zoom.us/j/5595902397">https://sfcollege.zoom.us/j/5595902397</a> ), during normal class times and by appointment. Additionally, watch the Frontline documentary " <b>Bush's War</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/pages/bushs-war-2008">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/pages/bushs-war-2008</a> )", a look at the lead-up to, and immediate aftermath of, the 2003 invasion of Iraq by the United States.	
4/9 Garry Wills " <b>At Ease, Mr. President</b> ↗" ( <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/27/opinion/27wills.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/27/opinion/27wills.html</a> ) and NYTimes book review " <b>Who Declares War?</b> ↗" ( <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/24/books/review/isaacson-t.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/24/books/review/isaacson-t.html</a> )."	4/11 POTP chpt 10: National Security ( <b>Essay 2</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943467">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943467</a> ) due 4/14)
4/16 Case Studies: Nixon to Reagan	4/18 Case Studies: Clinton to Obama
4/23 Case Studies: Trump, Biden, and the future	<b>Final Draft</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943469">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943469</a> ) <b>due Thursday 5/2</b>

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jan 21, 2024	 <b>Module 1 Quiz: The Changing Presidency</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943457">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943457</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 28, 2024	 <b>Module 2 Quiz: Election Politics</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943456">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943456</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 4, 2024	 <b>Module 3 Quiz: Popular Politics</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943458">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943458</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 11, 2024	 <b>Research Question</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943471">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943471</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 11, 2024	 <b>Essay 1</b> ( <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943466">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943466</a> )	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943460">Module 4 Quiz: Presidential Character and Performance</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943460">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943460</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 25, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943461">Modules 5 &amp; 6 Quiz: Legislative &amp; Executive Politics</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943461">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943461</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 3, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943464">Module 7 Quiz: Judicial Politics</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943464">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943464</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 10, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943459">Module 8 Quiz: Domestic Politics</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943459">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943459</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 24, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5947228">Outline &amp; Works Cited</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5947228">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5947228</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 24, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943462">Module 9 Quiz: Economic Politics</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943462">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943462</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 7, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943470">Literature Review Rough Draft</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943470">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943470</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 14, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943467">Essay 2</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943467">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943467</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 21, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943463">Module 10 Quiz: National Security Politics</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943463">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943463</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu May 2, 2024	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943469">Literature Review Final Draft</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943469">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943469</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943465">"Bush's War"</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943465">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943465</a>	
	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943472">Roll Call Attendance</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943472">https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/500060/assignments/5943472</a>	
	 <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3014580&amp;include_contexts=course_500060">University of Florida GatorEvals – Fall 2023 Main Project</a> <a href="https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3014580&amp;include_contexts=course_500060">https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3014580&amp;include_contexts=course_500060</a>	