

Course Syllabus

POS 4413

The Presidency



(<https://secure.flickr.com/photos/16698683@N00/15870725062>)

This course focuses on the modern (post-1945) presidency and its role in the American political system. Topics cover the institutional structure, relations with other institutions including the media, public opinion, domestic/foreign policy, and typologies of presidential power. The last half of the course is dedicated to applying theories of presidential leadership to the individuals who have held office since 1945 (Truman-Trump). In this Fall Semester 2020 the course will also follow closely the unfolding of the presidential election between President Trump and Joe Biden.

Click here for the [Plagiarism Tutorial Page](#)



Course Policies

Meeting Times: Tuesdays, 10:40-11:30; Thursdays, 10:40-12:35. This course is taught *synchronously* online. Students must join the class meetings via Zoom. The link for all Tuesday/Thursday meetings is <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98149937425?pwd=Z2ZqUS9UU3p2ckYza0xpMHJsa2NzZz09> (<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98149937425?pwd=Z2ZqUS9UU3p2ckYza0xpMHJsa2NzZz09>). The password is Washington (upper case W, rest lower case).

Attendance/Participation: Students are expected to attend all class meetings via Zoom and to participate actively in classroom discussion and debate. Students are expected to have read the material before class to prepare for discussions. Students are expected to be on time for Zoom meetings, not to mute their cameras, and not engage in other extraneous activities during synchronous class meetings (e.g., other phone calls, homework for other classes, reading the newspaper, Twitter/Facebook, etc.). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of all class meetings. Students who enter the Zoom meetings late, or do not attend, will be marked absent. The attendance component of the grade will be calculated

by the number of classes students attend divided by the total number of class meetings. Excused absences follow University guidelines (medical, legal, etc.). The participation component of the grade is assessed on the basis of student interactions (debate, questions, instructor questions to students, etc.).

Quizzes

Quizzes due after 11 September 2020 are on journal article readings on individual presidents. See the Syllabus schedule below for due dates. Late quizzes are not accepted.

Assignments:

Due dates for the mid-term exam and all assignments are noted at the end of the syllabus. Instructions for all assignments are detailed in the appropriate Canvas page. **Late assignments are not accepted.**

Required texts:

Joseph Pika and John Anthony Maltese, *The Politics of the Presidency* (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2020). 10th edition.

Michael Genovese (ed.), *Contending Approaches to the American Presidency* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2012).

Lisa A. Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*, 2nd edition (Washington, DC: CQ Press).

*** Select journal articles available electronically from Library West. **Click on "Course Reserves" tab to the left on the Canvas menu to access.**

Course Reading Schedule

WEEK 1 – Introduction / The Bases of Presidential Power

Tuesday, 1 September

- ▶ Course syllabus and schedule

Thursday, 3 September

- ▶ Pika/Maltese, Chapter 1: The Changing Presidency.
- ▶ **[Article II of the U.S. Constitution](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/articleii)** [_\(https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/articleii\)](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/articleii)

WEEK 2 – Presidential Elections

Tuesday, 8 September

- ▶ Pika/Maltese, Chapter 2: Election Politics

Thursday, 10 September

- ▶ Films and discussion of presidential campaign advertisements, 1952-present.

WEEK 3 – Presidential Elections

Tuesday, 15 September

- ▶ Pika/Maltese, Chapter 2: Election Politics
- ▶ Baglione, Chapter 1 (So You Have to Write a Research Paper)
- ▶ Campaign Commercials, 1952-.

Thursday, 17 September

- ▶ Discussion of the upcoming 2020 presidential election
- ▶ Baglione, Chapter 2 (Getting Started: Finding a Research Question)

WEEK 4 – Public Opinion and the Presidency

Tuesday, 22 September

- ▶ Pika/Maltese, Chapter 3, Public Politics
- ▶ Baglione, Chapter 3 (Learning Proper Citation Forms, Finding the Scholarly Debate, and Summarizing and Classifying Arguments: The Annotated Bibliography)

Thursday, 24 September

- ▶ Lecture/discussion of historical trends and the parameters of public opinion research;

WEEK 5 – The Institutional Presidency

Tuesday, 29 September

- ▶ Pika/Maltese, Chapter 6, Executive Politics

Thursday, 1 October

- ▶ Baglione, Chapter 4 (Making Sense of the Scholarly Answers to Your Research Question)

WEEK 6 – Presidential Relations with Congress & the Courts

Tuesday, 6 October

- ▶ Pika/Maltese, Chapter 5, Legislative Politics; Chapter 7, Judicial Politics

Thursday, 8 October

▶ Casey Byrne Knudsen Dominguez. "Is It a Honeymoon? An Empirical Investigation of the President's First Hundred Days." *Congress & the Presidency* 32 (2005): 63-78.

▶ Neustadt, Richard E. "The Contemporary Presidency: The Presidential 'Hundred Days': An Overview." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 31 (2001): 121-125.

▶ Baglione, Chapter 5 (Effectively Distilling Your Argument: The Thesis, Model and Hypothesis)

WEEK 7 – Domestic, Economic, and Foreign Policy

Tuesday, 13 October

▶ Pika/Maltese, Chapters 8, 9, and 10 (domestic politics/economics/national security politics)

Thursday, 15 October

▶ Baglione, Chapter 6 (Revising and Editing Your Work)

WEEK 8 - Presidential Leadership Perspectives

Tuesday, 20 October

▶ Genovese, *Contending Approaches*, Introduction and Chapters 1,2,3

Thursday, 22 October

▶ Genovese, *Contending Approaches*, Introduction and Chapters 4, 5, 6

WEEK 9 - Truman/Eisenhower

Tuesday, 27 October

▶ Film

[The Story of Harry Truman](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fACk8ILvAVc) [_\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fACk8ILvAVc\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fACk8ILvAVc)



[_\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fACk8ILvAVc\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fACk8ILvAVc)

[The Origins of Containment of Communism. The Truman Doctrine: Aid to Greece and Turkey Speech](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OKB3pdc_FU) [_\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OKB3pdc_FU\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OKB3pdc_FU)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OKB3pdc_FU

▶ Robert H. Ferrell, "Truman's Place in History." *Reviews in American History* (18), No. 1 (March 1990): 1-9.

Thursday, 29 October

▶ Film: [Eisenhower: Commander-in-Chief \(Biography Channel\)](https://www.biography.com/video/dwight-d-eisenhower-full-episode-2073088524)

<https://www.biography.com/video/dwight-d-eisenhower-full-episode-2073088524>

<https://www.biography.com/video/dwight-d-eisenhower-full-episode-2073088524>

[Eisenhower's "Hidden Hand" Presidency: Stephen Ambrose](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bXZb7dTGqQ) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bXZb7dTGqQ>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bXZb7dTGqQ>

▶ Mary S. McAuliffe, "Eisenhower, the President." *The Journal of American History* 68, No. 3 (1981): 625-632.

▶ Baglione, Chapter 7 (Making Your Plan and Protecting Yourself from Criticism)

WEEK 10 - Kennedy/Johnson

Tuesday, 3 November

▶ [Film: Kennedy, Biography Channel](https://www.biography.com/video/john-f-kennedy-full-biography-2261113932) <https://www.biography.com/video/john-f-kennedy-full-biography-2261113932>

▶ Richard E. Neustadt, "Kennedy in the Presidency." *Political Science Quarterly* 79, No. 3 (1964): 321-334.

Thursday, 5 November

▶ Film: Johnson (YouTube)

[Film: Johnson](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiFGhe-N2r0) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiFGhe-N2r0>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiFGhe-N2r0>

▶ Doris Kearns, "Lyndon Johnson's Political Personality." *Political Quarterly* 91, No. 3 (1976): 385-409.

- ▶ Baglione, Chapter 8 (Evaluating the Argument)

WEEK 11 – Nixon

Tuesday, 10 November / Thursday 12 November

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/f25e803682b6457bb35720ff2c9d5e1a1d> Film, Nixon: Man and President https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_99hkWPCVQ8



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_99hkWPCVQ8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_99hkWPCVQ8



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_99hkWPCVQ8

Clip: "I'm not a crook!" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh163n1IJ4M>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh163n1IJ4M>

Clip: "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore" (concession speech, 1962 California gubernatorial race) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA1edgj1U5E>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA1edgj1U5E>

- ▶ Jonathan Aitken, "The Nixon Character." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (Winter 1996): 239-47.

▶ James David Barber, "The Nixon Brush with Tyranny." *Political Quarterly* 92, No. 4 (1977): 581-605.

- ▶ Baglione, Chapter 9 (Bringing Your Paper Together in Three Essential Ways)

WEEK 12 – Ford/Carter/Reagan

Tuesday, 17 November / Thursday 19 November

Film: Gerald Ford -- A Time to Heal [_ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbrRPgAhAI\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbrRPgAhAI)



[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbrRPgAhAI\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbrRPgAhAI)

Film: Jimmy Carter -- Short Biography [_ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiF-C1_tME\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiF-C1_tME)



[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiF-C1_tME\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiF-C1_tME)

[_ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiF-C1_tME\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiF-C1_tME)



[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiF-C1_tME\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiF-C1_tME)

Gerald Ford '76 debate: "No Soviet domination of Eastern Europe"

[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8rg9c4pUrg\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8rg9c4pUrg)



[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8rg9c4pUrg\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8rg9c4pUrg)

Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter on "civility": LBJ Library, April 2000, hosted by Tim Russert

[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4D2F89rFWU\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4D2F89rFWU)



[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4D2F89rFWU\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4D2F89rFWU)

▶ John Whiteclay Chambers, "Jimmy Carter's Public Policy Ex-Presidency." *Political Science Quarterly* 113, No. 3 (1998): 405-425.

▶ John Kenneth White, "How Should Political Science Judge Ronald Reagan?" *Polity* 22, No. 4 (1990): 701-715.

▶ **Film—Reagan (Biography Channel)** [_\(https://www.biography.com/video/ronald-reagan-full-biography-9982019933\)](https://www.biography.com/video/ronald-reagan-full-biography-9982019933)

▶ John W. Sloan, "Meeting the Leadership Challenges of the Modern Presidency: The Political Skills and Leadership of Ronald Reagan." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 26, no. 3 (1996): 795-804.

WEEK 13 – H.W. Bush/Clinton

Tuesday, 24 November

Film—Bush: PBS NewsHour [_\(https://youtu.be/lzTj00H34x8\)](https://youtu.be/lzTj00H34x8)



[_\(https://youtu.be/lzTj00H34x8\)](https://youtu.be/lzTj00H34x8)

▶ Paul Brace and Barbara Hinckley, "George Bush and the Costs of High Popularity: A General Model with a Current Application." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 26, No. 3 (1993): 501-506.

▶ Kerry Mullins and Aaron Wildavsky, "The Procedural Presidency of George Bush." *Political Science Quarterly* 107, no. 1 (Spring 1992): 31-62.

Film: Clinton and the Clintons [_\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGlpEURVn2c\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGlpEURVn2c)



[_\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGlpEURVn2c\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGlpEURVn2c)

Film: George W. Bush Biography [_\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbg9JnflbmY\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbg9JnflbmY)



[_\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbg9JnflbmY\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbg9JnflbmY)

▶ Richard Pious, "The Paradox of Bill Clinton Winning and the Presidency Losing." *Political Science Quarterly* 114, no 4. (Winter 1999-2000): 569-593.

► Fred I. Greenstein, "There He Goes Again: The Alternating Political Style of Bill Clinton." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 31, no. 2 (1998): 178-181.

► John Roper, "The Contemporary Presidency: George W. Bush and the Myth of Heroic Presidential Leadership," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 34, No. 1 (2004): 132-142.

Thursday, 26 November -- NO CLASS/THANKSGIVING

Week 14 - W. Bush/Obama

Thursday, 3 December

[. \(https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99640280767\)](https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99640280767)

Film: Barack Obama, His Story [. \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvi8Izju7cs\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvi8Izju7cs)



[. \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvi8Izju7cs\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvi8Izju7cs)

► Lawrence Jacobs and Desmond King, "Varieties of Obamaism: Structure, Agency, and the Obama Presidency." *Perspectives on Politics* 8 (2010): 793-802.

► Barilleaux, Ryan J., and Jewel Maxwell. "Has Barack Obama Embraced the Unitary Executive?" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50 (2017): 31-34.

WEEK 15 – Trump and the Future of the Presidency

Tuesday, 8 December

Film: Frontline, "Trump's Road to the White House" [. \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMwXKI0odq8\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMwXKI0odq8)



[. \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMwXKI0odq8\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMwXKI0odq8)

► Bostdorff, Denise M. "Obama, Trump, and Reflections on the Rhetoric of Political Change." *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* 20, no. 4 (2017): 695-706.










► Eiermann, Martin. "How Donald Trump Fits into the History of American Populism." *New Perspectives Quarterly* 33, no. 2 (2016): 29-34.




► Kreis, Ramona. "The 'Tweet Politics' of President Trump." *Journal of Language and Politics* 16, no. 4 (2017): 607-618.

DEADLINES FOR QUIZZES AND ASSIGNMENTS (SCHEDULE)

(<https://secure.flickr.com/photos/16698683@N00/15870725062>)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	due by
Fri Sep 11, 2020	 Plagiarism Quiz https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310024	11:59pm
Fri Sep 11, 2020	 Presidential Knowledge Quiz (not graded) https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4351517	11:59pm
Thu Oct 29, 2020	 Knowledge Quiz Grade https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4353155	11:59pm
Thu Oct 29, 2020	 Quiz - Truman/Eisenhower https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310012	10:30am
Thu Nov 5, 2020	 Quiz - Kennedy/Johnson https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310022	10:30am
Fri Nov 6, 2020	 Contending Approaches Analysis https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310028	11:59pm
Thu Nov 12, 2020	 Quiz - Aitken/Barber readings on Nixon https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310020	10:30am
Thu Nov 19, 2020	 Quiz - Chambers/White Readings on Carter/Reagan https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310011	10:30am
Fri Nov 20, 2020	 Presidential Campaign Advertisements: 2020 vs. Past Presidential Campaigns https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310413	11:59pm

Date	Details	
Thu Dec 3, 2020	 Quiz - Brace-Hinckley/Pious/Greenstein Readings on H.W.Bush/Clinton (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310021)	due by 10:30am
Mon Dec 14, 2020	 Final Research Paper (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310030)	due by 11:59pm
	 Attendance & Participation (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/406511/assignments/4310027)	