Course Objectives

This course is designed to provide an overview of various theories on the institution of the American Presidency. It is principally focused on the triune relationship between Domestic Affairs, Foreign Affairs and the Election Process that all successful Presidents must balance carefully. However, this course does not provide a historical survey of the presidents from Washington to Obama; it emphasizes the Office of the Presidency as an institution.

Please note that plagiarism detectors will be utilized on all written work. Any detection of plagiarism will be reported to the Department Chair.

Course Texts

The Politics of the Presidency - Joseph Pika and J.A. Maltese
Theodore Roosevelt – Louis Auchincloss
Franklin Delano Roosevelt – Roy Jenkins
Ronald Reagan – Jacob Weisberg

Grading out of 400 pts

A+: 97-100
A: 93-96
A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86
B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76
C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69
D: 63-66
D-: 60-62

F: 59>below

- Three non-cumulative exams on the dates assigned– 55 pts each/ total 165 pts
  - Exams will include multiple choice and essay questions, each will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and in class videos.
- Three biography tests, which will be on the dates assigned– 15 pts each/ total 45 pts
• **Up to 11** randomly given quizzes on the movies/ Pika chapters – **5 pts each/ total 55 pts**

• **Three** papers 5 pages- **45 pts each/ 135 pts**

• **Paper Requirements**
  
  o Late papers will be penalized 20% each day that it is late.
  o Each of the presidents whose biographies you have read had transformative policies. What was their political background? What was their record as president? Discuss any notable achievements. Evaluate their transformative politics.
  o It is essential that the responses be presented clearly, concisely, and with very frequent, extensive in-text citations [ex. (Greenstein, 58)]. Citations are to be drawn exclusively from lecture material, video, and texts.
  o What is **not** desired is a series of facts about presidents; **analysis is necessary.** Papers should be double- spaced, Times New Roman font; 1” Top, bottom and side margins, and include page numbers. The papers should be at least 5 pages in length and a cover page. A reference page is not necessary

**Class Attendance**

• Class participation is expected & required. As attendance is the *sine qua non* of participation, more than **two** absences will result in a letter-grade reduction of your final course grade.
• Be a good citizen about arriving on time and staying for the entire class.
• Arriving late and /or leaving class early is only allowed in the case of a dire emergency **and only after prior consultation and approval from the instructor.**

**Graduate Students / Law Students**

If you are a graduate student or Law school student – please see me @ 221 Stubbs Hall within the first 2 weeks of the semester.

**Course Outline**

1/14 Syllabus Day

**Part I: The Office of the President**

1/19 Introduction; discussion of syllabus
   Evolution of the Presidency I
   Pika Chapter 6

1/21 Evolution of the Presidency II
1/22 Final day to drop without receiving “W”

1/26 Presidential Character and Greatness I
Pika Chapter 4

1/28 Presidential Character and Greatness II

2/2 Thirteen Days

2/4 Thirteen Days continued
Test on Theodore Roosevelt biography

2/8 – 2/10 Mardi Gras Break

2/11 Thirteen Days conclusion
President’s Constitutional “Hats”
Theodore Roosevelt Paper Due

2/16 The President and Congress
Pika Chapter 5

2/18 EXAM 1: Consisting of:
Part 1 Lectures
Thirteen Days movie
Pika Readings
Part II - Being President

2/23 Organization of the Federal Government
Pika Chapter 8
The Federal Budget

2/25 Foreign and Defense Policy

3/1 National Security Advisory Process
Presidency in the Cold War I
Pika Chapter 10

3/3 Presidency in the Cold War II
Test on Franklin Delano Roosevelt Biography

3/8 Presidency in the Post- 9/11 World I
Pika Chapter 11
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Paper Due

3/10 Presidency in the Post- 9/11 World II
Reflections on the Current World Order

3/15 The Unknown Known
3/17  The Unknown Known conclusion/ discussion

3/20 – 3/28  Spring Break

3/29  EXAM 2:  
Lectures  
Pika readings

Part III: Becoming the President of the United States

3/31  Nomination Process I  
Pika Chapter 2

4/5  Nomination Process II  
Convention I

4/7  Convention II  
Pika Chapter 1  
Test on Ronald Reagan Biography

4/12  The Fog of War  
Ronald Reagan Paper Due

4/14  The Fog of War conclusion/discussion  
Campaign I
4/19

Maya Lin: The Controversy over her Vietnam Wall Design

4/21

The Campaign II

2000 Election (Bush vs. Gore)

4/26

2008 Democratic Selection Process

Pika Chapter 3

4/28

The Electoral College

Pika Chapter 11

5/4

Final EXAM 3:

Lectures

Pika Readings

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm