Political Science 4036  
The American Presidency  
Fall 2013

T&TH 12:00-1:30  
212 Coates Hall

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy  
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Note: The use of laptops and cell phones is prohibited during class.

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.

Course Texts

*The Politics of the Presidency (8th Edition)*—Joseph Pika and J.A. Maltese  
*Chester Alan Arthur*—Zachary Karabell  
*Grover Cleveland*—Henry F. Graff  
*John F. Kennedy*—Alan Brinkley  
*Lyndon B. Johnson*—Charles Peters

Grading

A: 400-360  
B: 359-320  
C: 319-280  
D: 279-240  
F: 239-000

- **Three exams**—50 pts each (150 total pts)  
  - Exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and in class videos.

- **Four assigned reading book test** (Arthur, Cleveland, Kennedy, Johnson). – 25 pts each (100 total pts)
• **One** 9-10 page paper (about 3,000 words; Times New Roman 12 pt font) related to the Presidential biographies. **Topic:** compare the respective successors to their predecessors in the conduct of presidential affairs. -100 pts

• **Quizzes** will be given in relation to the assigned weekly readings from Pika. These will be unannounced, and there will be no make-ups given for quizzes. – 50pts

**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 consultation and approval from the instructor.

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

**Course Outline**

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

**Tuesday, August 27-**
Introduction; discussion of syllabus

*Thirteen Days movie*

**Thursday, August 29-**
*Thirteen Days movie continued*

**Tuesday, September 3-**
*Thirteen Days movie continued*

**Thursday, September 5-**
Evolution of the Presidency

Pika—Chapter 6

**Tuesday, September 10-**
*BOOK TEST 1—Chester Alan Arthur*

Evolution of the Presidency continued

**Thursday, September 12-**
Presidential Character & Greatness

Pika—Chapter 4
Tuesday, September 17-  President's Constitutional "Hats"

The President & Congress

Pika—Chapter 5

Thursday, September 19-  *EXAM 1: Part 1 Lectures, Thirteen Days movie, and Pika Readings*

Part II – Becoming the President of the United States

Tuesday, September 24-  Nomination Process

Pika—Chapter 2

Thursday, September 26-  Nomination Process continued

Tuesday, October 1-  *BOOK TEST 2—Grover Cleveland*

Convention

Thursday, October 3-  Convention continued

Pika—Chapter 1

Tuesday, October 8-  The Electoral College

Thursday, October 10-  The Electoral College continued

The 2000 election (Bush v. Gore)

Tuesday, October 15-  The 2008 Democratic Selection Process

Pika—Chapter 3

Thursday, October 17-  The Campaign

Pika—Chapter 11

Tuesday, October 22-  The Campaign continued

Thursday, October 24-  *EXAM 2: Part 2 Lectures and Pika Readings*
PART III – Being President

Tuesday, October 29-
Organization of the Federal Government
Pika—Chapter 8

Thursday, October 31-
*BOOK TEST 3—John F. Kennedy*
The Federal Budget

Tuesday, November 5-
Foreign and Defense Policy

Thursday, November 7-
Fall Break

Tuesday, November 12-
National Security Advisory Process
Pika—Chapter 10

Thursday, November 14-
Presidency in the Cold War world
Presidency in the Post-Cold War world
Pika—Chapter 7

Tuesday, November 19-
Presidency in the Post-9/11 world

Thursday, November 21-
*BOOK TEST 4—Lyndon B. Johnson*
Reflections on the Current World Order

Tuesday, November 26-
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thursday, November 28-
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Tuesday, December 3-
The Fog of War movie

Thursday, December 5-
The Fog of War movie continued

*PAPERS DUE IN CLASS*

*DATE TBA-FINAL EXAM: Part 3 Lectures, Fog of War movie, and Pika Readings*