Course Description
This course seeks to understand the institutional design of the Presidency as well as grasp an understanding of the historical development of that office. It will consider the Constitutional aims of the Presidency, the effects of the office-holder on American politics, and the President’s role in world affairs.

Books, articles, and original documents will be used in this course. To succeed in this class it is vital that you read these assignments and come to class, especially since several unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Participation and hard work in writing the required term paper will also increase your chances of a good grade. More importantly these efforts will further your understanding of the role of executive power in the American system of government.

Required Texts
Milkis, Sidney. *The President and the Parties: the transformation of the American Party system since the New Deal* (Oxford University Press) [ISBN 019508425X]


Additional readings will be posted on Moodle.

Grades:
The final grade for this course will be determined by a student’s performance in the following areas:

Quizzes: 20%
Term Paper: 25%
Mid Term Exam: 25%
Final: 30%
Letter grades will be determined as follows: A=100 to 90 percent, B=89 to 80 percent, C=79 to 70 percent, D=69 to 60 percent, and F=below 60 percent.

**Quizzes:** Six unannounced quizzes (closed book) will be given based on the readings; students will be allowed to drop their two lowest scores. Quizzes missed without an extraordinary excuse (documented sickness, family emergency, etc.) will be graded a zero. Again, it is vital students attend class.

**Term Paper:** An 8-10 page *original* essay (12 font, 1” margins, double spaced) in MLA format on an additional biography of a President is due in class on **April 19, 2013**. Any biography read should be academic in nature and at least 200 pages long. The term paper should consider the President in the biography in light of the issues/topics presented in the course. Further details on the project will be offered early in the semester.

Be careful to cite text and ideas that are not your own. Please familiarize yourself with LSU’s policy on academic honesty, especially plagiarism; any suspected violations will be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation.

**Mid Term Exam:** Essay questions along with some multiple choice, and short answer questions dealing with material covered in the first half of the course.

**Final Exam:** Essay questions along with some multiple choice, and short answer questions dealing primarily with material covered in the second half of the course, but might also include some material from the first half.

**Class Participation for Extra Credit:** While not a major portion of calculating a student’s final grade in this course, taking part in class discussions, including commenting on a topic and/or addressing a question, is an important way to learn. To that end students may earn up to 5 points of extra credit on their final grade through participation. Following class, students who contributed in that day’s class should write a sentence or two about what they said on a piece of paper and turn it in to me. This ensures that I keep an accurate record of participation. Other extra credit opportunities may be offered, but the majority of extra credit will come through class participation.

**Course Schedule**

**January 14, 2013**
Introduction and Syllabus

**ELECTING THE PRESIDENT**

**January 16, 2013**
The Electoral College and American Liberty (Gary Greg)
Electoral College Shortchanges Voters (George C. Edwards III)
*Bush v. Gore*
January 18, 2013
James Ceaser “Party Politics and Presidential Ambition”
McGovern-Fraser Commission Report

January 21, 2013 -- Martin Luther King Jr. Day -- NO CLASS

THE FOUNDING AND THE PRESIDENCY

January 23, 2013
General Power Tendencies 1776-1787 (Charles Thach Jr.)
State Executive Power 1776-1787 (Charles Thach Jr.)

January 25, 2013
Article 2, US Constitution
Cato Letter #4
Federalist 69-73

January 28, 2013
Madison on Removal Power
Neutrality Proclamation of George Washington
Pacificus-Helvidius Letters

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WAR POWERS

January 30, 2013
The Two Presidencies (Aaron Wildavsky)
Farewell Address of George Washington
Monroe Doctrine (1823)
Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points
US v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corporation (1936)

February 1, 2013
George W. Bush’s War on Terrorism Address (2001)
Barack Obama “Remarks by the President to the UN General Assembly” (Sept. 2012)
“Making A Difference at the International Level: The American President as World Leader”
(Barbara Kellerman)

February 4, 2013
Abraham Lincoln, “Message to Congress in Special Session” (July 4, 1861)
Prize Cases (1863)
Ex Parte Milligan (1866)
Korematsu v. United States (1943)
Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company v. Sawyer (1952)
February 6, 2013
War Powers Resolution (1973)
Campbell v. Clinton (2000)
“War Powers Belong to the President” (John Yoo)
“War Powers for the 21st Century: The Constitutional Perspective” (Louis Fisher)

THE PRESIDENT AS PARTY LEADER

February 8, 2013
Skowronek, Chpts. 1 and 2

February 11, 2013
Mardi Gras-NO CLASS

February 13, 2013
Mardi Gras-NO CLASS

February 15, 2013
Skowronek Chpt. 3

February 18, 2013
Skowronek, Chpt. 4, Part 1: Jefferson’s Reconstruction

February 20, 2013
Skowronek, Chpt 4. Part 2: James Monroe’s Articulation
Skowronek, Chpt 4. Part 3: John Quincy Adam’s Disjunction

February 22, 2013
Skowronek, Chpt. 5, Part 1: Andrew Jackson’s Reconstruction

February 25, 2013
Skowronek, Chpt. 5. Part 2: James Polk’s Articulation
Skowronek, Chpt 5, Part 3: Franklin Pierce’s Disjunction

February 27, 2013
Skowronek, Chpt 6, Part One: Abraham Lincoln’s Reconstruction

March 1, 2013
Review

March 4, 2013
Mid Term Examination

March 6, 2013
Skowronek Chpt. 6 Part Two: Theodore Roosevelt’s Articulation
March 8, 2013
Skowronek Chpt. 6 Part Three: Herbert Hoover’s Disjunction

March 11, 2013
Skowronek Chpt. 7 Part One: Franklin Roosevelt’s Reconstruction

March 13, 2013
Skowronek Chpt. 7 Part Two: Lyndon Johnson’s Articulation

March 15, 2013
Skowronek Chpt. 7 Part Three: Jimmy Carter’s Disjunction

March 18, 2013
Skowronek Chpt. 8 Reagan, Bush, and Beyond

THE PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNMENT

March 20, 2013
Woodrow Wilson “Cabinet Government in the United States”

March 22, 2013
Milkis, Chpt. 1 and 2

March 25, 2013
Milkis, Chpt. 3 and 4

March 27, 2013
Milkis, Chpt. 5 and 6

March 29-April 7th SPRING BREAK

April 8, 2013
Milkis, Chpt. 7 and 8

April 10, 2013
Milkis, Chpt. 9 and 10

April 12, 2013
Milkis, Chpt. 11 and 12

POWER, PERSUASION, AND THE PRESIDENCY

April 15, 2013
“The Presidency and the News Media” (John Anthony Maltese)
“The Rise of the Rhetorical Presidency” (Ceaser, Thurow, Tullis, O’Toole)
April 17, 2013
“A Marriage Made in Philadelphia: The Constitution and the Rhetorical Presidency” (David K. Nichols)

April 19, 2013
“The Constitution and Executive Privilege” (Mark Rozell)
Selection from Executive Privilege: A Constitutional Myth (Raoul Berger)

TERM PAPER DUE

April 22, 2013
“The Legal Significance of Presidential Signing Statements” (Steven G. Calabresi)

April 24, 2013
“The Law: Prerogative Power and Executive Branch Czars: President Obama’s Signing Statements” (Mitchel A. Sollenberger and Mark J. Rozell)

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS OF THE OFFICE

April 26, 2013
Selections from Impeachment: The Constitutional Problems (Raoul Berger)

April 29, 2013
“Leader or Clerk, Three Cases of Command, The Power to Persuade” (Richard E. Neustadt)

May 1, 2013
“The Ambivalence of Executive Power” (Harvey Mansfield Jr.)

May 3, 2013
Review

To be announced FINAL EXAMINATION

Please note that this schedule is tentative and subject to change as the semester progresses.
All reading assignments will be confirmed in class.