Political Science 4036.2
The American Presidency
Spring 2013

Instructor: Jacob Seigler
jakewf@gmail.com
330 Stubbs

Class: MWF 12:30-1:20 (210 Tureaud)
Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30 (330 Stubbs), or by appointment

Course Requirements:

[20%] Daily quizzes (open-book) on the assigned readings
[25%] Midterm Exam (Wednesday, March 13)
[25%] Critical Review of Presidential Biography
[30%] Final Exam (Monday, May 6, at 10 A.M.)

Course Texts (Required):


Course Website:

Additional REQUIRED readings will be posted on Moodle.
Course Syllabus

M 1/14     Introduction

W 1/16     *Aristotle, The Politics, Book III, chs. 6-13

F 1/19     *Aristotle, The Politics, Book III, chs. 14-18
            Machiavelli, The Prince, Dedicatory Letter, chs. 1-4

M 1/21     Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday

W 1/23     Machiavelli, The Prince, chs. 5-16

F 1/25     Machiavelli, The Prince, chs. 17-26

M 1/28     Locke, Second Treatise, chs. 1-6

W 1/30     Locke, Second Treatise, chs. 7-9

F 2/1      Locke, Second Treatise, chs. 10-15

M 2/4      Locke, Second Treatise, chs. 16-19

W 2/6      Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 1: Setting the Stage

F 2/8      Hamilton, Jay, and Madison, The Federalist, ## 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 23

M 2/11     Mardi Gras Holiday

W 2/13     The Federalist, ## 23, 47-51, 62, 64-66

F 2/15     The Federalist, ## 67-73

M 2/18     The Federalist, ## 74-78, 84, 85

W 2/20     Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 2: Creating the Presidency

F 2/22     Workshop for Critical Review of Presidential Biography
W 2/27 TBA
F 3/1 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 4: The Rise of Party Politics & the Triumph of Jeffersonianism
M 3/4 TBA
W 3/6 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 5: The Age of Jackson
F 3/8 *Tocqueville, "On the Federal Constitution"
M 3/11 *Tocqueville, "On the Federal Constitution"
W 3/13 Midterm Exam
M 3/18 TBA
W 3/20 TBA
F 3/22 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 7: The Reaction against Presidential Power
M 3/25 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 8: Progressive Politics & Executive Power
W 3/27 TBA
F 3/29 Spring Break
M 4/1 Spring Break
W 4/3 Spring Break
F 4/5 Spring Break
F 4/12 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 10: The Triumph of Conservative Republicanism
M 4/15 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 11: The Consolidation of the Modern Presidency
W 4/17 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 11: The Consolidation of the Modern Presidency
F 4/19 TBA
M 4/22 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 12: Personalizing the Presidency
W 4/24 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 12: Personalizing the Presidency
F 4/26 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 13: A Restoration of Presidential Power?
M 4/29 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 14: Bill Clinton and the American Presidency
W 5/1 Milkis & Nelson, Chapter 15: The Vice Presidency
F 5/3 Last Class
M 5/6 Final Examination (10 AM—Noon)