Political Science 4036-Tuesday
The American Presidency
Fall 2008

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**Note:** The use of laptops and cell phones is prohibited during class. The course packet of PowerPoint slides will be e-mailed to students for their convenience. I wish to have your undivided attention and for you to have the uninhibited opportunity for exchanges with your fellow students and myself.

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to provide an overview of various theories on the institution of the American presidency. Two major areas relating to the American presidency will be highlighted in this course: Becoming President and Being President. Additionally, specific presidents in the post-New Deal era are discussed. However, this course does not provide a historical survey of the presidents from Washington to Bush. This course emphasizes the presidency as an institution. This course is intended to enable the student to obtain a general understanding of the presidential election process and of the administrative and policymaking processes of the presidency.

**Course Texts**

Dunn, Susan and MacGregor, James
Diggins, John Patrick
Greenstein, Fred I.
Leuchtenburg, William
Mulcahy, Kevin V.

George Washington
John Adams
The Presidential Difference
In the Shadow of FDR: From Harry Truman to George W. Bush
Course Packet: Readings on the American Presidency

**Grading**


- Two tests on the Jefferson & Coolidge biographies - 25pts each

- Two non-cumulative exams (midterm & final) - 100pts each
  - Exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings and videos

- One paper [5,000 words ~ 15 pages] - 150pts
  - To what extent do you believe the presidency has evolved over time? Does this series of developments reflect a change in the Presidents themselves, or in those who elect them? Do you believe the institution will continue to evolve, or has the expansion of its role been circumscribed by the empowering of other agencies (such as the media, Congress, etc.)? It is essential that responses be presented clearly, concisely and with frequent, extensive in-text citations (ex: (Greenstein, 58)). Citations are to be drawn exclusively from lecture material, videos and (both) texts. What is not desired is a series of facts about Presidents; analysis is necessary. Double-spaced; 12pt Times New Roman Font; 1” top & bottom - 1” side margins; and, include page numbers.

**Class Attendance**

- Class participation is expected and 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.

Course Outline

Lecture 01 Introduction; discussion of syllabus
Evolution of the Presidency I
Evolution of the Presidency II

Part One: Becoming President

A. Nomination Process: Delegates

Lecture 02 Presidential Selection Process I
Video: Thirteen Days (2hr 27min)
Lecture 03 Presidential Selection Process II
Presidential Selection Process III
Presidential Selection Process IV

B. Election Process: Electors

Lecture 04 Test 1
Presidential Campaigns I
Presidential Campaigns II
Documentary: "Vietnam: How We Went to War"
Lecture 05 Electoral College
President's Constitutional "Hats"
Lecture 06 Movie: Path to War (2hrs., 44min)
Lecture 07 Midterm Exam

Part Two: Being President

A. Domestic Affairs

Lecture 08 The President and Congress
Lecture 09 The Cabinet
The Federal Bureaucracy
Lecture 10 Test 2
The Federal Budget
The White House Staff

B. Foreign Affairs

Lecture 11 Constitution, The Presidency and Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy Departments: State, Defense, and the CIA
Lecture 12 The National Security Council
Models of Foreign Policy-making
Lecture 13 Paper due
The Presidency in the Cold War
Documentary: “The Fog of War” (1hr., 47min.)

Lecture 14 The Presidency in the Post-Cold War World

Final Exam TBA