Political Science 4036  
The American Presidency  
Spring 2011 - Intersession

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy  
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Hours: M-S: 1:00-4:30  
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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 presidency as an institution.

Course Texts

The Presidential Difference - Greenstein, Fred  
Franklin Delano Roosevelt - Jenkins, Roy

Grading

A: 200-180 B: 179-160 C: 159-140 D: 139-120 F: 120-000

- Three non-cumulative exams - 50 pts each  
  o Exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and in class videos  
- A four-page paper evaluating FDR as a leader domestically and internationally- 50 pts  
  o Reading quiz will count for 10 pts from the essay.

Class Attendance

- Class participation is expected and required. As attendance is the sine qua non of participation, more than ONE absence 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

Graduate students and Law School students are required to write a 6 page paper. The paper will be an analysis of the Roosevelt book discussing his success and failure as a president.
Course Outline

Part I - The Office of the President (43 slides)

May 19  Introduction; discussion of syllabus
         Documentary: Profile of FDR, Part I
         Evolution of the Presidency (22 slides)

May 20  Evolution of the Presidency (cont.)
         Presidential Character & Greatness (10 slides)

May 21  Presidential Character & Greatness (cont.)
         President’s Constitutional “Hats” (4 slides)
         The President and Congress (6 slides)

Part II - Being President (77 slides)

May 23  Exam 1 - Greenstein: FDR, Carter, Eisenhower, Truman
         Organization of the Federal Government (15 slides)

May 24  The Federal Budget (8 slides)
         Foreign & Defense Policy (9 slides)
         National Security Advisory Process (6 slides)

May 25  FDR Book Reading Quiz
         Presidency in the Cold War World (16 slides)
         Documentary: Profile of FDR, Part II
         Presidency in the Post-Cold War World (6 slides)

May 26  Presidency in the Post-9/11 World (11 slides)
         Reflections on Current World Order (6 slides)
         Documentary: FDR and The New Deal

Part III - Becoming the President (100 slides)

May 27  Exam 2 - JFK, LBJ, Nixon, Reagan
         Nomination Process (24 slides)
         Convention (5 slides)

May 28  Electoral College (23 slides)
         2000 Election (3 slides)

May 30  Roosevelt Paper Due
         2008 Democratic Selection Process (7 slides)
         The Campaign (14 slides)

May 31  Media (17 slides)

June 1  Exam 3 - Greenstein: Bush 41, Clinton, Bush 43, Obama