Political Science 4036  
The American Presidency  
Fall 2011

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy  
Office: 221 Stubbs Hall  
Hours: M-S: 1:00-4:00  
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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 President as an institution.

Course Texts

The Presidential Difference – Greenstein, Fred  
George Washington – James MacGregor Burns & Susan Dunn  
Abraham Lincoln – George S. McGovern  
Franklin Delano Roosevelt – Roy Jenkins

Grading

A: 600-540  B: 539-480  C: 479-420  D: 419-360  F: 359-000

- Three non-cumulative exams – 100 pts each  
  - Exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and in class videos.
- Three assigned reading book test (Washington, Lincoln, FDR). – 50 pts each

- A twelve-page (12) paper evaluating the leadership styles of the three presidents (Washington, Lincoln, FDR) covered in the assigned readings. It is essential that page numbers be used rigorously for both direct quotations and specialized information. NO outside sources. -150 pts

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 student 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, Aug. 23 – Introduction; discussion of syllabus
Thirteen Days movie

Thursday, Aug. 25 - Thirteen Days movie continued

Tuesday, Aug. 30 - Thirteen Days movie continued
Evolution of the Presidency

Thursday, Sept. 1 - Evolution of the Presidency I.

Tuesday, Sept. 6 - Evolution of the Presidency II.

Thursday, Sept. 8 - Presidential Character & Greatness

Tuesday, Sept. 13 - President’s Constitutional “Hats”
The President & Congress

Thursday, Sept. 15 – Exam 1: Greenstein: FDR, Reagan, H.W. Bush
Lectures & Thirteen Days movie

Part II – Being President

Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Organization of the Federal Government

Thursday, Sept. 22 - The Federal Budget
Book Test 1: Washington

Tuesday, Sept. 27 - Foreign & Defense Policy

Thursday, Sept. 29 - National Security Advisory Process
Presidency in the Cold War world

Tuesday, Oct. 4 - Presidency in the Cold War world continued

Thursday, Oct. 6 - The Fog of War movie

Tuesday, Oct. 11 - The Fog of War movie continued
Thursday, Oct. 13 - FALL BREAK!!!

Tuesday, Oct. 18 - Presidency in the Post-Cold War world
Presidency in the Post-9/11 world

Thursday, Oct. 20 - Presidency in the Post-9/11 world continued
Reflections on Current World Order

Tuesday, Oct. 25 - Reflections on Current World Order continued
Book Test 2: Lincoln

Thursday, Oct. 27 - Exam 2: Greenstein: Truman, JFK, LBJ, Nixon

**Part III – Becoming the President of the United States**

Tuesday, Nov. 1 - Nomination Process I.

Thursday, Nov. 3 - Nomination Process continued II.

Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Convention

Thursday, Nov. 10 - Electoral College I.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 - Electoral College II.

Thursday, Nov. 17 - Electoral College III.
2000 Election (Bush v. Gore)

Tuesday, Nov. 22 - Book Test 3: FDR
2008 Democratic Selection Process

THANKSGIVING BREAK – Wednesday, Nov. 23 – Monday, Nov. 28

Tuesday, Nov. 29 - Paper Due
The Campaign I.

Thursday, Dec. 1 - The Campaign II.

FINALS WEEK – Monday, Dec. 5 – Saturday, Dec. 10