Political Science 4036
The American Presidency
Spring 2012

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy
Office: 221 Stubbs Hall
Hours: M-S: 1:00-4:00
Phone: 225-578-2533
E-Mail: kmulcah@lsu.edu

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
John Adams - by John Patrick Diggins
Millard Fillmore - by Paul Finkelman
The William Howard Taft Presidency - Lewis L. Gould

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 (Adams, Fillmore, Taft) – 50 pts each

• A twelve-page (12) paper evaluating the leadership styles of the three presidents (Adams, Fillmore, Taft) 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, Jan. 17 - Introduction; discussion of syllabus
_Thirteen Days_ movie

Thursday, Jan. 19 - _Thirteen Days_ movie continued

Tuesday, Jan. 24 - _Thirteen Days_ movie continued
Evolution of the Presidency

Thursday, Jan. 26 - Evolution of the Presidency I.

Tuesday, Jan. 31 - Evolution of the Presidency II.

Thursday, Feb. 2 - Presidential Character & Greatness

Tuesday, Feb. 7 - President’s Constitutional “Hats”
The President & Congress

Thursday, Feb. 9 - Exam 1: Greenstein: FDR, Reagan, H.W. Bush
Lectures & _Thirteen Days_ movie

Part II – Being President

Tuesday, Feb. 14 - Organization of the Federal Government

Thursday, Feb. 16 - The Federal Budget
Book Test 1: Adams

Thursday, Feb. 23 - Foreign & Defense Policy

Tuesday, Feb. 28 - National Security Advisory Process
Presidency in the Cold War world

Thursday, March 1 - Presidency in the Cold War world continued

Tuesday, March 6 - _The Fog of War_ movie

Thursday, March 8 - _The Fog of War_ movie continued
Tuesday, March 13 - Presidency in the Post-Cold War world
Presidency in the Post-9/11 world

Thursday, March 15 - Presidency in the Post-9/11 world continued
Reflections on Current World Order

Tuesday, March 20 - Reflections on Current World Order continued
Book Test 2: Fillmore

Thursday, March 22 - Exam 2: Greenstein: Truman, JFK, LBJ, Nixon

Part III – Becoming the President of the United States

Tuesday, March 27 - Nomination Process I.

Thursday, March 29 - Nomination Process continued II.

Tuesday, April 3 - Convention

Thursday, April 5 - Electoral College I.

Tuesday, April 17 - Electoral College II.

Thursday, April 19 - Electoral College III.
2000 Election (Bush v. Gore)

Tuesday, April 24 - Book Test 3: *The War*
2008 Democratic Selection Process

Thursday, April 26 - Paper Due
The Campaign I.

Tuesday, May 1 - The Campaign II.

FINALS WEEK – Monday, May 7 – Saturday, May 12