Political Science 4036
The American Presidency
Fall 2012

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

TA: Cory Sukala
E-mail: cory.sukala@gmail.com

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 Presidency as an institution.

Course Texts

The Politics of the Presidency- Joseph Pika and J.A. Maltese
William Henry Harrison- Gail Collins
Benjamin Harrison- Charles W. Calhoun
Theodore Roosevelt- Louis Auchincloss
Franklin Delano Roosevelt- Roy Jenkins

Grading


- Three non-cumulative exams – 50 pts each
  - Exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and in class videos.

- Four assigned reading book test (W.H. Harrison, B. Harrison, T. Roosevelt, FDR). – 25 pts each

- Two exams on The Politics of the Presidency- Pika & Maltese, to be read independently -25 pts each

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.

• The upside of participation/attendance is the possibility of extra-credit quizzes (No make-up for extra credit). Extra credit can possibly total up to an extra letter grade, so attendance/participation is crucial.

**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. 21 – Introduction; discussion of syllabus
*Thirteen Days movie*

Thursday, Aug 23 - *Thirteen Days movie continued*

Tuesday, Aug. 28 - *Thirteen Days movie continued*
Evolution of the Presidency

Thursday, Aug.30 - Evolution of the Presidency  I.
*Pika and Maltese Test 1* - Chapters 1,2,3,4,11

Tuesday, Sept. 4 - Evolution of the Presidency  II.

Thursday, Sept. 6 - Presidential Character & Greatness

Tuesday, Sept. 11 - President’s Constitutional “Hats”
The President & Congress

Thursday, Sept. 13 – *Exam 1: Lectures & Thirteen Days movie*

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

Tuesday, Sept. 18 - Nomination Process I.

Thursday, Sept. 20 - Nomination Process continued II.

Tuesday, Sept. 25 - Convention
*Book Test 1: William Henry Harrison*

Thursday, Sept. 27 - Electoral College I.

Tuesday, Oct. 2 - Electoral College II.
2000 Election (Bush v. Gore)
Thursday, Oct. 4 - 2008 Democratic Selection Process
Tuesday, Oct. 9 - The Campaign I.
Book Test 2: Benjamin Harrison
Thursday, Oct. 11 - The Campaign II.
Tuesday, Oct. 16 - Exam 2
FALL BREAK Oct. 18-22

Part III – Being President

Tuesday, Oct. 23 - Organization of the Federal Government
Thursday, Oct. 25 - The Federal Budget
Book Test 3: Theodore Roosevelt
Tuesday, Oct. 30 - Foreign & Defense Policy
Thursday, Nov. 1 - National Security Advisory Process
Presidency in the Cold War world
Tuesday, Nov. 6 - Presidency in the Cold War world continued
Book Test 4: FDR
Thursday, Nov. 8 - Presidency in the Post-Cold War world
Presidency in the Post-9/11 world
Tuesday, Nov. 13 - Presidency in the Post-9/11 world continued
Thursday, Nov. 15 - Pika and Maltese Exam 2- Chapters 5,6,7,10
Tuesday, Nov. 20 - Reflections on Current World Order

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 21-26

Tuesday, November 27 - The Fog of War movie

Thursday, November 29 - The Fog of War movie continued

Thursday, December 6 - Exam 3
5:30-7 pm in the same room as class (unless otherwise indicated)