Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy
Office: 221 Stubbs Hall
Hours: M-F: 1:00-6:00
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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 presidency as an institution.

Course Texts

The Presidential Difference - Greenstein, Fred
Woodrow Wilson - Brands, H.W.

Grading


- Three non-cumulative exams - 100 pts each
  - Exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and videos
- Quiz on Woodrow Wilson - 30 pts

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 an additional 6 page paper. The paper will be an analysis of the Wilson book discussing his success and failure as a president.
Course Outline

The Domestic Presidency

May 20  Introduction; discussion of syllabus

May 21  Presidential Character & Greatness
         President’s Constitutional “Hats”
         Evolution of the Presidency

May 22  The President and Congress
         The Cabinet and Appointments

May 24  The Federal Bureaucracy
         The Federal Budget
         Executive Office of the President / OMB

         Documentary: How we went to war in Vietnam

The Foreign Policy Presidency

May 26  The Constitution and Foreign Affairs
         Foreign Policy: State, Defense & CIA
         The National Security Council

May 27  Models of Foreign Policy-making
         The Presidency in the Cold War
         The Presidency in the Post-Cold War World

May 28  Exam 2 – TPD: Truman, JFK, LBJ, Nixon
         Movie: 13 Days

The Selection / Election Process

May 29  Presidential Selection Process I
         Presidential Selection Process II

May 31  Wilson Paper Due and Wilson Quiz
         Presidential Campaigns I
         Electoral College

June 1   Media

June 2   Exam 3 – TPD: W. Bush, Eisenhower, Carter, Clinton