

POLS 341: The Presidency

Professor Justin Esarey
Spring 2010

January 25, 2010

Contact Information

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30p or by appointment

The best way to reach me is by e-mail; I have access to my e-mail via phone and computer and should respond within 24 hours of receiving your message.

Class Time and Location

Monday and Wednesday 3:00-4:30p
White Hall 110

Course Description

This course introduces students to the workings of the executive branch of the federal government, including and especially the presidency. The course will address theories of executive power, the electoral politics of the presidency, presidential staff management, the president's role in federal policy-making, and bureaucratic politics.

Though focusing on substantive aspects of the presidency, the course will read statistical articles from the literature and make use of some simple game theoretic models of politics. **It is strongly suggested that students take POLS 308 (Research Methods) before taking this class.**

Required Course Materials

Textbooks

Pfiffner, James P. 2008. *The Modern Presidency, 5th ed.* Thomson Wadsworth.

Pfiffner, James P. and Roger H. Davidson. 2007. *Understanding the Presidency, 4th ed.* Pearson Longman.

Kernell, Samuel. 2007. *Going Public, 4th ed.* CQ Press.

Other

Reading materials not included in these textbooks can be downloaded from the electronic reserve (on Reserves Direct) or at links included in this syllabus. **Note: many of the downloadable materials must be accessed from on-campus.**

All students must have a valid Emory e-mail address and login to participate in this course.

Grading/Evaluation

Grading Scale

100%-93%: A	76.9%-73%: C
92.9%-90%: A-	72.9%-70%: C-
89.9%-87%: B+	69.9%-67%: D+
86.9%-83%: B	66.9%-60%: D
82.9%-80%: B-	>59.5%: F
79.9%-77%: C+	

Grade Components

- 50% Exams
 - 3 Exams, first two 150 points each, final 200 points
 - Multiple choice questions, 5 points each (24 on the first two exams, 28 on the final)
 - Short essay questions, 15 points each (2 on the first two exams, 4 on the final)
 - All exams are comprehensive, but strongly focus on the material learned since the last exam
- 35% Term Paper

- 350 points for final draft
- See section on term paper assignment for more details
- 15% Reading Quizzes
 - 7.5 points each, total of 150 points
 - Usually one multiple-choice question
 - Minimum of 20 quizzes will be given; if more than 20 are given, lowest quizzes will be dropped
- No extra credit opportunities are available.

Assignments and Responsibilities

Readings

The reading load in this class will be approximately 60 pages per week. Please read all assigned materials before coming to class. If I call on you or ask you to participate in an activity in class, I will expect that you have read the assignment for the day.

You don't have to fully understand everything in a reading assignment the first time you read it, but you should be familiar with the material. If you don't understand something, feel free to e-mail me with a question, or come to class with a knowledgeable question about what we've read for the day. Short reading quizzes will be frequently administered to evaluate whether you have done the readings due for that day.

Term Paper

Your research assignment for this semester is to write a 5000 word policy memo to President Obama advising him on an important domestic or foreign policy issue. The memo should consist of the following elements:

1. a presentation of the nature of the problem,
2. a presentation of at least 2 alternative policy proposals to deal with the problem,
3. a comparative evaluation of the proposals' effectiveness on a scientific or economic basis (will the plan actually work, if it can be done), including empirical evidence (case studies and/or statistical evidence),
4. a discussion of the powers available to the president to implement this policy, and how they should be used,

5. a strategy to implement each policy proposal, including a description of how and why the president should make use of the White House staff, negotiate with Congress, and supervise implementation through the bureaucracy.

The final draft of the paper must be submitted **at the start of class on April 26, 2010**.

In this class, we will use the APSA citation style described in the APSA Manual of Style and at the following links:

- University of Wisconsin Writing Center: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA.html>
- Dr. Bruce Drury's Website: <http://dept.lamar.edu/polisci/DRURY/drury.html>

If you ever have any questions about whether or how material should be cited, PLEASE contact me with your question and I can assist you. I cannot guarantee a timely response unless you contact me *at least 24 hours in advance of the time the assignment is due*.

More specific information about the research project will be distributed during the semester.

Class Participation

During class, there will be frequent opportunities to contribute to class discussion. Civility and topicality is important for in-class discussion. You are free to express any (on-topic) view that you want, so long as you support your claim and are willing to listen respectfully to counter-arguments from others. You are free to question the claims of others and engage them in scholarly discussion, but do not interrupt: wait for me to recognize you before speaking. You may comment on recent news events of interest to the class (if they are relevant), but you are not free to engage in name-calling, taunting, harassment, or otherwise unproductive talk. If you violate this rule, I may ask you to leave the classroom. I reserve the right to penalize your grade for inappropriate behavior, up to and including permanent removal from the class.

Exams

All exams are a combination of multiple choice questions and four short essay questions. All tests are cumulative, but will focus primarily on what we have talked about since the last test. Everything that I have taught in class, that has been discussed in class, or that is present in the assigned readings is testable material for the exam. Exams will be held on dates that I announce at least a week before the test, with the specific dates to be chosen in consultation with the class.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in this class. There are a few relevant course policies that you should know:

1. No points are deducted on the basis of an absence alone, but absent students will receive no credit for a reading quiz on a day that they are absent. There is no opportunity to make up these quizzes.
2. If I assign an in-class activity for the day, and you are absent, you take a 0 for that activity. These activities will usually be announced in advance, but may not always be.
3. Anything I teach in class is testable material, and *not everything I teach in class will be in the course reading material.*

Courtesy

To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn without undue distraction, please follow the following guidelines.

1. Turn off your cell phone (or put it into silent mode).
2. Do not talk during class unless called upon by the instructor.
3. Do not read newspapers or magazines during class.
4. Do not enter class late or leave it early unless it's an emergency and/or you've cleared it with me in advance.

If you violate these rules, I may ask you to leave the classroom. I reserve the right to penalize your grade for repeated inappropriate behavior, up to and including permanent removal from the class.

Missed Exams

Exams may be re-taken under the following circumstances only:

1. Death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, sibling, or child) within 2 weeks before the exam.
2. Unforeseeable medical emergency affecting yourself, your spouse, or your child (something beyond feeling under the weather—car accident, major sickness, or the like).

3. Participation in an official Emory-sponsored academic or sporting event.

In the case of reasons (1) or (3), you must give me at least 24 hours advance notice (such as an e-mail or phone call) that you will miss the exam or it may not be made up. I may require supporting documentation. *Conflicts with a work schedule are not an excuse to miss an exam or any other assignment in this class.*

Late Work

When an assignment is turned in after the due date, I will deduct 5 percentage points for the first day of lateness, and 10 percentage points for each subsequent day of lateness. An assignment is considered late if it is not turned in at the start of the class period during which it is due (or an alternative time that I may announce for an assignment), and the number of late days is calculated based on that time.

Late work penalties may be waived in the event of death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, sibling, or child) within 2 weeks before the due date, or in the event of an unforeseeable medical emergency affecting yourself, your spouse, or your child. Penalty waivers are at the discretion of the instructor. I may require supporting documentation. *Conflicts with a work schedule or other class assignments will not justify waiving late penalties for any assignment in this class.*

Academic Misconduct

Cases of plagiarism on the research paper and other forms of academic misconduct (e.g., cheating on exams) will be handled according to the Emory University Honor Code, available on-line at http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html.

Please pay special attention to the definition of plagiarism on the Emory Honor Code web site at the link above. You may also find the Emory Writing Center's site on "Avoiding Plagiarism" helpful; this site is found at <http://www.writingcenter.emory.edu/plagiarism.html>.

If you ever have any questions about whether or how material should be cited, PLEASE contact me with your question and I can assist you. I cannot guarantee a timely response unless you contact me *at least 24 hours in advance of the time the assignment is due.*

Course Outline and Assigned Readings

Topic 1: Executive Politics and Constitutional Design

Required Readings

1. *The Modern Presidency*: All of Chapter 1 (pp. 1-18).

2. *Understanding the Presidency*: Readings 1, 2, and 3 (“James Madison to Thomas Jefferson” and Federalist Papers No. 69 and 70 – pp. 6-13).
3. “Criticisms of Presidentialism and Responses.” Matthew Shugart and John Carey (Chapter 3 in *Presidents and Assemblies*, 1997, pp. 28-54). Available on electronic reserve.

Topic 2: Presidential Elections

Required Readings

1. *The Modern Presidency*: Portion of Chapter 2 (pp. 19-45).
2. *Understanding the Presidency*: Readings 12 (“Nomination Politics, Party Unity, and Presidential Elections” – pp. 71-87) and 17 (“The Myth of Presidential Mandate” – pp. 141-150).
3. “Editor’s Introduction: Forecasting the 2008 National Elections.” James E. Campbell (PS, Oct. 2008). Download from <http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/PS0ct08Campbell.pdf>.
4. “On the Razor’s Edge: The Forecast of the Primary Model.” Helmut Norpoth (PS, Oct. 2008). Download from <http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/PS0ct08Norpoth.pdf>.
5. “Leading Economic Indicators, the Polls, and the Presidential Vote.” Robert S. Erikson, Christopher Wlezien (PS, Oct. 2008, pp. 747-751). Download from <http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/PS0ct08EriksonWlezien.pdf>.
6. “The Job of President and the Jobs Model Forecast: Obama for ‘08?” Michael S. Lewis-Beck, Charles Tien (PS, Oct. 2008). Download from <http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/PS0ct08Lewis-BeckTien.pdf>.
7. “Forecasting the 2008 Presidential Election with the Time-for-Change Model.” Alan Abramowitz (PS, Oct. 2008). Download from <http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/PS0ct08Abramowitz.pdf>.

****FIRST EXAM CUTOFF****

Topic 3: Presidential Leadership - The President and the Public

Required Readings

1. *The Modern Presidency*: Portion of Chapter 2 (pp. 45-55).
2. *Understanding the Presidency*: Reading 19 (“The Permanent Campaign” – pp. 172-178).

3. *Going Public*: Chapters 1-2.
4. “Dynamic Representation.” James A. Stimson, Michael B. MacKuen, and Robert S. Erikson. *American Political Science Review*, Sep. 1995, 89(3): 543-565. Download from: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2082973>.
5. “Presidential Rhetoric and the Economy.” B. Dan Wood, Chris T. Owens and Brandy M. Durham. *Journal of Politics*, Aug. 2005, 67(3): pp. 627-645. Download from: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3449565>.

Topic 4: Presidential Leadership - The White House Staff

Required Readings

1. *The Modern Presidency*: All of Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 58-119).
2. *Understanding the Presidency*: Readings 24 (“The White House Staff” – pp. 232-233) and 27 (“Presidential Appointments and the Office of Presidential Personnel” – pp. 262-272).
3. “Staffing Alone: Unilateral Action and the Politicization of the Executive Office of the President, 1988-2004.” David E. Lewis. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 35(3): 496-514. Download from: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118655282/abstract>.
4. “Neustadt, New Institutionalism, and Presidential Decision Making: A Theory and Test.” Matthew J. Dickinson. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 2005, 35(2): 259-288. Download from: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118655264/abstract>.

****SECOND EXAM CUTOFF****

Topic 5: Presidential Leadership - Bureaucracy and the Executive Branch

Required Readings

1. *The Modern Presidency*: All of Chapter 5 (pp. 120-149).
2. “Bureaucracy and Intergovernmental Relations.” Kenneth Shepsle and Mark Bonchek (Chapter 13 in *Analyzing Politics*, 1997, pp. 345-379). Available on electronic reserve.
3. “Delegating Power to Bureaucracies: Evidence from the States.” Craig Volden. *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 2002, 18(11): 187-220. Download from: <http://jleo.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/18/1/187>.

Topic 6: Governance - Presidential Policy Making Under Separated Powers

1. *The Modern Presidency*: All of Chapter 6 (pp. 150-202).
2. *Understanding the Presidency*: Readings 28 (“Presidential Relations with Congress,” pp. 276-293), 32 (“The Hundred Days,” pp. 334-340), 33 (“The Power to Persuade,” pp. 341-346), and 34 (“Unilateral Powers: A Brief Overview,” pp. 347-361).
3. “Divided Government and Interbranch Bargaining.” Charles Cameron (Chapter 1 in *Veto Bargaining*, 2000, pp. 1-32). Available on electronic reserve.
4. “Regulatory Regimes, Agency Actions, and the Conditional Nature of Congressional Influence.” Charles R. Shipan. *American Political Science Review*, 2004, 98: 467-480. Download from: <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=245217>.

Students with Disabilities

Emory University complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. All students with special requests or need for accommodations should make this request to Prof. Esarey as soon as possible.¹ Documentation from the Emory Office of Disability Services is required; see url-<http://www.ods.emory.edu/students.htm> for more details.

Syllabus Change Policy

The policies of this syllabus may be changed by Prof. Esarey with advance notice.

¹This statement is quoted from the Office of Faculty Resources for Disabilities website at <http://www.portals.emory.edu/sylideas.html>.