

POLS 4102/5102: The Presidency
Credit: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: POLS 1101

Course Description:

This course focuses not only upon the institutional and legal frameworks set out in the Constitution regarding the presidency but also upon the historical, philosophical, psychological, and sociological aspects of the office.

Objectives: The student should

1. Clearly understand the relationship between the executive and the other two branches of government;
2. Be familiar with the historical "evolution" of the powers of the presidency;
3. Understand how public policy is formulated, particularly the president's role in foreign policy making.

Course Outline:

- I. Intellectual Origins of the Founding
 Sidney Milkis, *The American Presidency*, Chapter 1
- II. U.S. Constitution, Articles I & II
 Milkis – Chapter 2
- III. Powers of the Executive
 Federalist 67-77 <http://memory.loc.gov/const/fed/fedpapers.html>
 Milkis – Chapters 3, 4, & 5
 Milkis – Chapter 16
- IV. Executive Prerogative
 Milkis – Chapters 6 & 7
- V. Rhetoric & Statesmanship

 The Life of King Henry the Fifth (Shakespeare)
 <http://www.bartleby.com/70/2943.html>

 George Washington, Farewell Address
 <http://www.liberty1.org/farewell.htm>

 Pericles, Funeral Oration
 http://www.wsu.edu/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_1/pericles.html

 Lincoln, Gettysburg Address

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/25.htm>

Calvin Coolidge, Inaugural Address

<http://www.about-america.org/history/speeches/liacoolidge.htm>

VI. The Progressive Era

Milkis – Chapters 8, 9 & 10

Missouri v. Holland (1920)

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=252&invol=416>

VII. The Modern Presidency - I

Milkis – Chapters 11, 12, & 13

United States v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corp. (1936)

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=299&invol=304>

The War Powers Resolution (1973)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/laws/majorlaw/warpower.htm>

VIII. The Modern Presidency – II

Milkis – Chapters 14 & 15

Evaluation:

1. Three exams. Exam policy: Make-up exams WILL NOT be given unless a doctor's excuse is presented to the instructor (or a presidential pardon, cf. Art. II, sec. 2). Exam dates: I. September 12, II. October 17, III. December 12, 11:00-1:00 p.m.

2. One 5 page paper, due November 30. LATE papers will be lowered one grade. Paper topics (pick a, b, or c): a) Give a thorough analysis of George Bush's Homeland Security, b) Analyze the current U.S.-Iraq tension, or c) Any topic of your choosing (with instructor's approval).

3. Class attendance and participation will affect borderline grades.

4. Grade scale: 100-90--A 89-80--B 79-70--C
 69-60--D 59-0--F

Attendance Policy:

A student is expected to attend each class. If a student misses more than three classes (unexcused) then his/her grade will be lowered one letter.

Textbook:

Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson. *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2007* (5th ed.). Washington: CQ Press (2007). ISBN: 978-0-87289-336-8

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:00 a.m.; 11:00-12:00 p.m.
TT 9:00-12:00 p.m. Or by appointment.

Classroom: Pafford 109

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