

Political Science 4036
The American Presidency
Spring 2016

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy
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Note: THE USE OF LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES IS PROHIBITED DURING CLASS.
Note: SCANTRONS WILL BE UTILIZED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER

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.

Please note that plagiarism detectors will be utilized on all written work. Any detection of plagiarism will be reported to the Department Chair.

Course Texts

The Politics of the Presidency - Joseph Pika and J.A. Maltese
Theodore Roosevelt – Louis Auchincloss
Franklin Delano Roosevelt – Roy Jenkins
Ronald Reagan – Jacob Weisberg

Grading out of 400 pts

A+: 97-100	A: 93-96	A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89	B: 83-86	B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79	C: 73-76	C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69	D: 63-66	D-: 60-62
F: 59>below		

- **Three** non-cumulative exams on the dates assigned– **55 pts each/ total 165 pts**
 - Exams will include **multiple choice** and **essay questions**, each will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and in class videos.
- **Three** biography tests, which will be on the dates assigned– **15 pts each/ total 45 pts**

- 1/22** **Final day to drop without receiving “W”**
- 1/26** Presidential Character and Greatness I
Pika Chapter 4
- 1/28** Presidential Character and Greatness II
- 2/2** *Thirteen Days*
- 2/4** *Thirteen Days* continued
Test on Theodore Roosevelt biography
- 2/8 – 2/10** **Mardi Gras Break**
- 2/11** *Thirteen Days* conclusion
President’s Constitutional “Hats”
Theodore Roosevelt Paper Due
- 2/16** The President and Congress
Pika Chapter 5
- 2/18** **EXAM 1:** Consisting of:
Part 1 Lectures
Thirteen Days movie
Pika Readings

Part II- Being President

- 2/23** Organization of the Federal Government
Pika Chapter 8
The Federal Budget
- 2/25** Foreign and Defense Policy
- 3/1** National Security Advisory Process
Presidency in the Cold War I
Pika Chapter 10
- 3/3** Presidency in the Cold War II
Test on Franklin Delano Roosevelt Biography
- 3/8** Presidency in the Post- 9/11 World I
Pika Chapter 11
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Paper Due
- 3/10** Presidency in the Post- 9/11 World II
Reflections on the Current World Order
- 3/15** *The Unknown Known*

3/17 *The Unknown Known conclusion/ discussion*

3/20 – 3/28 **Spring Break**

3/29 **EXAM 2:**
Lectures
Pika readings

Part III: Becoming the President of the United States

3/31 Nomination Process I
Pika Chapter 2

4/5 Nomination Process II
Convention I

4/7 Convention II
Pika Chapter 1
Test on Ronald Reagan Biography

4/12 *The Fog of War*
Ronald Reagan Paper Due

4/14 *The Fog of War* conclusion/discussion
Campaign I

- 4/19** *Maya Lin: The Controversy over her Vietnam Wall Design*
- 4/21** The Campaign II
2000 Election (Bush vs. Gore)
- 4/26** 2008 Democratic Selection Process
Pika Chapter 3
- 4/28** The Electoral College
Pika Chapter 11
- 5/4** **Final EXAM 3:**
Lectures
Pika Readings
12:30 pm- 2:30 pm