

Spring 2017
Lefrak 1201
MW 12:30-1:45 PM
Office Hrs: TR 3:15-4:00 PM or by appt.

Prof. David Karol
dkarol@umd.edu
Tydings 3140P

Government and Politics 475

The Presidency and the Executive Branch

The Presidency is the most visible aspect of the American national government. Yet it is not necessarily the best understood. Too often the personality of the President is seen as all-important and structural factors are given insufficient attention. The Presidency is more than the individual who serves briefly as Chief Executive. Accordingly, this class is not focused on Presidential biography. Rather we seek to understand the role of the Presidency in the political system. This will include exploration of the development of the President's staff, the Cabinet and the Federal Bureaucracy. The Presidency can only be understood in comparative perspective. There is only one President at a time, so comparisons must be over time or cross-national.

Assignments and Grading

This is a demanding class that combines lecture and seminar discussion formats. To participate effectively and succeed in this class students must do the reading before class meets and be prepared to discuss it. Requirements include:

Quizzes-There will be six quiz days. Quizzes –which will be very brief- will *not* be announced, but will be focused on the readings assigned for that day. Students who miss a quiz without a medical excuse receive a zero for that quiz. Students may drop their lowest quiz grade, including zeroes from missed quizzes.

Points Allocation:

Class Participation 10%

Quizzes 10%

Midterm 25%

Debate Paper and Participation: 15%

Final Exam 40%

Policies:

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable

and will be dealt with severely. These issues are discussed here:
<http://lib.guides.umd.edu/content.php?pid=250224&sid=2065767>

Laptops and Cell Phones: The use of laptops in this class is strongly discouraged. If it is vital that you use a laptop please write me a note explaining your needs. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is not permitted.

Late Assignments: No late assignments will be accepted without a documented medical excuse.

Readings:

One book is available for purchase:

Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson. The American Presidency. Sixth Edition. Washington, D.C.: Sage CQ Press, 2014.

Other readings will be available online.

Schedule of Meetings

Thursday January 26th **Introduction**

Tuesday January 31st **The Presidency: Background**

Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 1 (ONLINE)

Thursday February 2nd **The Founders' Design, Part I: Should One Person be Chief Executive?**

Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 2

Debates of the Constitutional Convention: June 1, June 2, June 4, Federalist #70 (ONLINE)

Tuesday February 7nd **Founders' Design, Part II: How Should Presidents Be Elected?** Debates July 17th (starting with 9th Resolution), July 19, July 24, September 4, September 5 (starting with Pinkney speech), September 6 (ONLINE)

Federalist Papers Numbers 68, 71 and 72 (ONLINE)

Thursday February 9th **NO CLASS**

Tuesday February 14th **Founders' Design, Part III: The Electoral College:**

Shlomo Slonim, "The Electoral College at Philadelphia: The Evolution of an Ad Hoc Congress for the Selection of a President." (ONLINE)

Thursday February 16th **Norms and the Presidency**

Julia Azari and Jennifer Smith. 2012. "Unwritten Rules: Informal Institutions in Established Democracies" *Perspectives on Politics*. Vol. 10 No. 1 37-55.

Tuesday February 21st **Presidents and Their Parties: The Nomination Process I**

William Carleton 1957. "The Revolution in the Presidential Nomination System" *Political Science Quarterly* 72, 224-240.

Thursday February 23rd **Presidents and Their Parties: The Nomination Process: II**

Cohen, Karol, Noel and Zaller, 2008. "The Invisible Primary in Presidential Nominations, 1980-2004" in The Making of the Presidential Candidates 2008. (ONLINE)

Cohen et al 2016 "Party versus Faction in the Reformed Presidential Nominating System." *PS Political Science & Politics*. Vol. 49 No.4: 701-708. (ONLINE)

Tuesday February 28th **Presidential Elections**

Abramson et al. Change and Continuity in the 2012 Presidential Election. (excerpts ONLINE)

David R. Mayhew 2008. "Incumbency Advantage in U.S. Presidential Elections."

Political Science Quarterly. Vol. 123 No. 2 201-228

Thursday March 2nd **Interpreting Presidential Elections**

Robert Dahl, "Myth of the Presidential Mandate" *Political Science Quarterly* (ONLINE)

Marjorie Hershey, "The Constructed Explanation: Interpreting Election Results in the 1984 Presidential Race." *Journal of Politics* (ONLINE)

Tuesday March 7th **The Early Presidency**

Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 3 &5

Thursday March 9th **The Growth and Decline of the 19th Century Presidency**

Milkis and Nelson Ch.6-7

Lord Bryce. "Why Great Men are not Chosen Presidents" (ONLINE)

Tuesday March 14th **The Modern and Partisan Presidencies**

Milkis and Nelson Ch. 10

Richard Skinner. "Barack Obama and the Partisan Presidency: Four More Years?" *Society* (ONLINE)

Thursday March 16th **Midterm Exam**

Tuesday March 21st NO CLASS -SPRING BREAK

Thursday March 23rd NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK.

Tuesday March 28th **The President and Congress**

George Edwards, 1978. "Congress and the President: The Inevitability of Conflict" *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 8 No.3 pp. 245-257 (ONLINE)

Thursday March 30th **The President and Congress, ctd.**

Roger Davidson, "Presidential Relations with Congress", Section 6 No. 25 in Understanding the Presidency (ONLINE)

Frances Lee. 2008. "Dividers not Uniters: Presidential Leadership and Senate Partisanship, 1981-2004." *Journal of Politics* (ONLINE)

Tuesday April 4th **The President and the Courts**

John Anthony Maltese, "The President and the Judicial Appointment Process" Section 6, No. 27 in Understanding the Presidency (ONLINE)

"How Going Nuclear Unclogged the Senate" *Politico* August 22, 2014 (ONLINE)

Thursday April 6th **Beyond the Chief Executive: The White House Staff and Cabinet**

"The White House Staff" (Brownlow Report), Section 5, No. 21 in Pfiffner and Davidson.

John Burke. "The Institutional Presidency" in The Presidency and the Political System (ONLINE)

James D. King and James W. Riddlesperger. "Diversity and Presidential Cabinet Appointments." *Social Science Quarterly* (ONLINE)

Tuesday April 11th **The President and The Bureaucracy**

David E. Lewis and Terry M. Moe. "The Presidency and the Bureaucracy"

Watch "Rumsfeld's War" (ONLINE)

Thursday April 13th **Veto Politics**

John Gilmour. "Political Theater or Bargaining Failure: Why Presidents Veto" *Presidential Studies Quarterly*

Tuesday April 18th **The President and Unilateral Action**

Jeffrey A. Fine and Adam L. Warber. (2012), "Circumventing Adversity: Executive Orders and Divided Government," *Presidential Studies Quarterly*

Thursday April 20th **The Commander in Chief**

Andrew Polsky. "The Presidency at War" in The Presidency and the Political System

Andrew Rudalevige, "War Powers Irresolution," *The Monkey Cage*, March 22, 2011 (ONLINE)

Tuesday April 25th **The President and Foreign Policy: Are There Two Presidencies?**

Aaron Wildavsky. "The Two Presidencies." *Trans-Action*,

Richard Fleisher et al., "The Demise of the Two Presidencies." *American Politics Quarterly* (ONLINE)

Chaim Kaufman. "Threat Inflation and the Failure of the Marketplace of Ideas: The Selling of the Iraq War." *International Security* (ONLINE)

Thursday April 27th **The Changing Role of the Vice-President**

Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 16

Joel Goldstein, "The Rising Power of the Modern Vice-Presidency" *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (ONLINE)

Debate

Tuesday May 2nd **Comparative Perspective I: Presidents vs. Prime Ministers**

Richard Heffernan, "Why the Prime Minister Cannot be a President" *Parliamentary Affairs* (ONLINE)

Debate

Thursday May 4th **Comparative Perspective II: American Presidents and Others**

Matthew Shugart, "The American Process of Selecting a President: A Comparative Perspective" *Electoral Studies* (ONLINE)

Debate

Tuesday May 9th Debates

Thursday May 11th Debates, Ctd.

Final Exam: Thursday May 18, 8 AM.