FOCUS

This course is designed to explain and evaluate the most frequently discussed and powerful branch of the government, the office of the chief executive, i.e. the presidency of the United States. The course will focus on several major areas pertinent to any serious analysis of the presidency: 1) the internal and external forces which affect presidential behavior, 2) the decision-making process of presidents, 3) the legislative process and its impact on presidential behavior, and 4) the ability of the electorate to affect influence on the president and his/her actions.

TEXTS

Required:

Recommended:


There will be additional readings handed out during the course of the semester.

REQUIREMENTS

Midterm Examination 20%
Research Paper 20%
Journal Entries 20%
Final Examination 20%
Class Citizenship 20%

The midterm examination and the final examination will both be in essay format.

CLASS POLICIES

1) Students are responsible for all materials covered in the lectures and assigned readings. You must read the relevant chapters before the lecture pertaining to those readings.

2) Failure to attend class, tardiness, and failure to participate in class discussion will negatively affect your grade in this class (class citizenship portion of the course grade).

3) Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will be punished to the fullest extent allowable by the Academic Committee at the University of St. Thomas. (See Below)

4) Other than in exceptional cases of personal or family emergencies, no make-up exams will be given for students missing any of the regularly scheduled assignments during the semester. A reduction of a full letter grade will result for every calendar day late that an assignment is.

5) A grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be given in this course except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

PLAGIARISM

The following are some dictionary\(^1\) definitions of plagiarism:

- “The action of copying someone else’s idea or work or pretending that you thought of it or created it” (Collins).

- “To take words, ideas, etc., from someone else’s work and use them in one’s own work without admitting one has done so” (Longman).

\(^1\) Source: W. Decoo (2002). *Crisis on Campus: Confronting Academic Misconduct*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press; Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.)
• “To steal or pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another” (Webster). Plagiarism also includes

- “Double-dipping - This is submitting a paper or other assignment which had previously earned credit from another course.”

- “Text recycling - Reusing in a new assignment large portions of a previously submitted paper(s) or other written assignment (computer code, speech, etc.) without acknowledging their former use.”

Common student misconceptions on plagiarism:

• “Many students believe that as long as a citation is included, they can simply appropriate portions of text from another source and use that text as their own writing.”

• “Many are also confused as to what constitutes common knowledge believing that anything on the internet is common knowledge.”

Some General Tips to Students:

• Citation Guidelines
  
  - Common Knowledge: Did you look up the information? If so, then a citation is needed
  
  - An emphasis should be placed on proper paraphrasing (This will be discussed in greater detail when the paper topics are handed out).

• Student assignments should always be crafted and turned in with the understanding that the professor will be operating under the assumption that:
  
  - unless otherwise properly noted in the assignment, the assignment submitted is the student’s own.
  
  - the representation of their own or others’ work is accurate (e.g., data fabrication).

  - that the assignment turned in/presented is exclusive to that course.

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2 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.

3 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.

4 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
August 23  Introduction to the course, Michael Nelson Overview

**Part I – Approaches to the Presidency**

Tulis, Chp. 1 (Nelson reader)

Ragsdale, Chp. 2 (Nelson reader)

**Part II - Elements of Presidential Power**

Skowronek, Chp. 3 (Nelson reader)

Landy and Milkis, Chp. 4 (Nelson reader)

Quirk, Chp. 5 (Nelson reader)

Nelson, Chp. 6 (Nelson reader)

**Part III - Presidential Selection**

Brown, Chp. 7 (Nelson reader)

Edwards, Chp. 8 (Nelson reader)

**Part IV - Presidents and Politics**

Miroff, Chp. 9 (Nelson reader)

Lim, Chp. 10 (Nelson reader)

Tichenor, Chp. 11 (Nelson reader)

Milkis, Chp. 12 (Nelson reader)

**Part V - Presidents and Government**

Burke, Chp. 13 (Nelson reader)

Lewis and Moe, Chp. 14 (Nelson reader)

Dickinson, Chp. 15 (Nelson reader)

Yalof, Chp. 16 (Nelson reader)
Rudalevige, Chp. 17 (Nelson reader)

**Part VI – Presidents and Public Policy**

Porter, Chp. 18 (Nelson reader)

Polsky, Chp. 19 (Nelson reader)

**Important Dates:**

No Class, Tuesday, October 11, Fall Break

Midterm Examination, Thursday, October 27

No Class, Thursday, November 27, Thanksgiving Day

Journals are due on Tuesday, December 1

Last Day of Class, Thursday, December 1

Research Papers are due on Thursday, December 1

Thursday, December 11, Final Examination, 4:30-7:00PM

**PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

The paper must be 8 to 10 pages in length (graduate students, 15 to 20 pages in length). It must be typed, double-spaced, paginated, and must use an academically accepted format for footnotes, citations and reference pages. A list of possible paper topics will be handed out. The topic, once chosen, will have to be turned in to the instructor on **October 27**. This will have to be accompanied by a brief bibliography. Since this is a research project, 6 to 8 sources must be cited, with at least four being from recent scholarly publications. In addition, periodicals, magazines and newspapers may be used. The major scholarly journals in political science are:

*American Political Science Review*
*American Journal of Political Science*
*Journal of Politics*
*Congress and the Presidency*
*Political Behavior*
*Public Opinion Quarterly*
*American Politics Quarterly*
*American Politics Research*
*Legislative Studies Quarterly*
*Presidential Studies Quarterly*
Examples of other sources are periodicals such as *The Brookings Review*, and *Cato*; magazines such as *The New Republic*, *The Progressive*, and *The National Review*; and newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *the Washington Post*, *the Washington Times*, and *the Christian Science Monitor*.

**JOURNALS**

Students are also required to keep a journal on one of the presidential campaigns. Two to three journal entries a week should be made, and are to be from the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*. You can choose to focus on the Trump/Pence, Clinton/Kaine, Johnson/Weld or on the Stein/Baraka campaigns. The journal entries must include the date and title of the article, and must be typed as well. These entries should be reflective pieces, which summarize and critique the presidential campaign that you have chosen as the semester unfolds. Following the November election, you are required to reflect on why you think that your particular campaign failed or succeeded. In addition, until the journals are due on **December 1**, your entries must shift to the policy decisions of the incoming administration. I will schedule one or two class sessions to discuss your journal during the course of the semester.