

GVPT 475 (Tydings 1101)—Fall 2009  
MW 1-1:50  
Office hours: MW 10:30-11:45 and by appointment  
GVPT Main Office: ph.# 405-4156  
Teaching Assistant: Ms. Rebecca Thorpe

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Discussion Sections—Friday at 10, 11, or 12

## Syllabus for The Presidency and the Executive Branch<sup>1</sup>

### *Course Purpose and Description:*

Many of us can name twenty or more American presidents, but my experience suggests that few of us can name more than a half dozen Speakers of the House or Chief Justices of the Supreme Court. Though the founders clearly thought of Congress as the most powerful branch and many Anti-Federalists were most concerned about the power of the national judiciary, it is the presidents and the presidency that draw our attention and our collective political interest. In this class, we will discuss the development of the presidency, its place in our constitutional system, and the issues that a single executive raises in a democracy. We will also spend time thinking about the personal qualities associated with effective executive leadership, the extent to which our current electoral system selects individuals capable of assuming the vast responsibilities of the office, and the president's role in the policymaking process. Finally, the fall elections will be regular topic of discussion and analysis.

### *Course Requirements:*

The first task required of every student is to subscribe to the GVPT475 Listserv list. The T.A. and I may use this to send important information to you. Beginning **September 2, 2009**, *each student will be fully responsible for acquiring information sent by us through the list*. Instructions for subscribing are provided at the end of the syllabus. See the T.A. if this requirement presents a challenge.

The course includes four graded components: two (2) exams (including the final exam), a group project or individual paper, and classroom participation. Your final grade will be based on your performance on these components. The weights of the various graded components for the determination of your final grade are as follows:

Mid-term exams	40% (20% for each exam)
Final exam	30%
Group Project (or Individual Paper)	20%
Classroom participation	10%

Both exams will involve the identification of terms/concepts and one or more essay questions. Students should arrive at class with no more in their hands than a UMD student ID and pencils. Bluebooks will be provided. Students will not be allowed to use electronic devices such as cell phones or computers during the exam. Further information about the group project/individual paper requirement will be forthcoming. Attendance, evidence of preparation, and consistent and significant involvement in class activities and discussions are all important components of classroom participation. Grades are based on a 10-point scale, unless I deem a curve necessary. Also, students should be aware that make-up exams might differ from those given in class. On a related note, I do not -- as a general rule -- give Incompletes. Obviously, students are required to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by the university.

### *Required Texts:*

***Epic Journey: The 2008 Elections and American Politics***. 2009. James W. Ceasar. Rowman & Littlefield.  
[JC]

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<sup>1</sup> I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as changes become necessary.

*Presidential Power and the Modern President*. 1990. Richard Neustadt. The Free Press. [RN]  
*Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. 2007 (4<sup>th</sup> edition). Samuel Kernell. CQ Press. [SK]  
*The Modern Presidency*. 2008 (5<sup>th</sup> edition). James P. Pfiffner. Thomson Wadsworth. [JP]  
*The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to George W. Bush*. 2004. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Fred I. Greenstein. Princeton University Press. [FG]  
*Presidential Leadership in Political Time: Reprise and Reappraisal*. 2008. Stephen Skowronek. Belknap/Harvard. [SS]

I will also be distributing a draft of a textbook I am in the process of writing. Readings from this textbook will be indicated by IM below. You are also expected to read a newspaper of record (e.g. the Washington Post or the New York Times) on a regular basis. If you have a question about a specific paper, please see me.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2009 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than September 15, 2009. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who fail to provide me with the necessary documentation after September 15, 2009.

**Academic Integrity:** All members of the academic community at the University of Maryland are required to abide by the *Code of Academic Integrity* (<http://www.inform.umd.edu/jpo/>). Any member of the campus community may report allegations of code violations directly to the Honor Council (314-8206). Please note that you will be expected to write out and sign the following Honor Pledge—"I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/paper/examination."—on each assignment/paper/examination.

**Class Comportment:** Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistant, or myself will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

**Attendance:** I expect everyone to attend class. Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time to indicate that you have an illness or an injury and will be missing a discussion section or a class during which an assignment is due or an exam is to be administered. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury on the day that you return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. if you have not provided this documentation. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University's Student Conduct Office.

**Religious Observances:** By September 15, 2009, students must provide me in writing a request for a make up exam if I have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify) on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.

**Copyright:** The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and utilize course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes or course materials for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, part 9 (k).

**Course Evaluations:** I welcome your feedback about this course. Your participation in the campus-wide, online evaluation at the end of the semester is particularly important. **CourseEvalUM** will open for Fall 2009 courses on Tuesday, December 2, 2009. Students may go directly to the website ([www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu)) to submit their evaluations.

**General Course Outline:** With the exception of the first day's readings, you are expected to complete the readings for a particular day prior to class that day.

- M – 8/31 – Course Introduction
- W – 9/2 – The Nature of the Social Scientific Endeavor  
--Chapters 1 and 2, IM
- W – 9/9 -- Social Science and the Presidency  
--King, Gary. 1993. “The Methodology of Presidential Research.” In George Edwards, III, John H. Kessel, and Bert A. Rockman, eds., *Researching the Presidency: Vital Questions, New Approaches*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. <http://gking.harvard.edu/files/methpres.pdf>
- M – 9/14 – The Founders and the Presidency  
--Chapter 3, IM  
--various Federalist and Anti-Federalist papers TBA  
<http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/>  
<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?subcategory=73>  
<http://oll.libertyfund.org/>
- W – 9/16 – Institutional Development of the Presidency  
--Chapter 1, JP
- M – 9/21 – The Selection Process  
--pp. 19-57, JP
- W – 9/23 – The Selection Process  
--Chapter 5, IM
- M – 9/28 – 2008 Election I  
--Selected chapters, JC
- W – 9/30 – 2008 Election II  
--Selected chapters, JC  
--Symposium on “The Economy, Obama, and the 2008 Election.” 2009. *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 42:457-484.
- M – 10/5 – Exam 1
- W – 10/7 -- Insider Politics and the Power of Persuasion I  
--Selection from Chapter 4, IM  
--Chapters 1-8, RN
- M – 10/12 – Insider Politics and the Power of Persuasion II  
--Chapters 9-13, RN
- W – 10/14 – Taking it to the People I  
--Selection from Chapter 4, IM  
--Chapters 1-5, SK
- M – 10/19 – Taking it to the People II  
--Chapters 6-8, SK
- W – 10/21 – Time and the Presidency I  
--Selection from Chapter 4, IM  
--Chapters 1-2, SS

M – 10/26 – Time and the Presidency II

--Chapters 3-4, SS

W – 10/28 – The Imperial Presidency

--Selection from Chapter 4, IM

--Chapter 5, SS

-- Rudalevige, Andrew. 2006. "The Contemporary Presidency: The Decline and Resurgence and Decline (and Resurgence?) of Congress: Charting a New Imperial Presidency." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 36:506-524.

M – 11/2 – Exam 2

W – 11/4 – Congress and the President I

--Chapter 6, IM

--Chapter 6, JP

-- Trubowitz, P. and N. Mellow. 2005. "'Going Bipartisan': Politics by Other Means." *Political Science Quarterly*. 120(3):433-453.

--Binder, Sarah. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock." *American Political Science Review*. 93:519-534.

M – 11/9 – The President and the Courts

--Chapter 7, IM

--Epstein, Lee, R. Lindstat, and Jeffrey A. Segal. 2006. "The Changing Dynamics of Senate Voting on Supreme Court Nominees." *Journal of Politics*. 68:296-307.

--Kind, Kimi Lynn and James Meernik. 1999. "The Supreme Court and the Powers of the Executive: The Adjudication of Foreign Policy." *Political Research Quarterly*. 52:801-824.

--Lobel, Jules. 2007. "The Commander in Chief and the Courts." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 37:49-65

W – 11/11 – The Executive Branch

--Chapter 3-5, JP

--Chapter 8, IM

--West, William F. 2006. "Presidential Leadership and Administrative Coordination: Examining the Theory of a Unified Executive." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 36:433-456.

--Goldstein, Joel K. 2008. "The Rising Power of the Modern Vice Presidency." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 38:374-389.

M – 11/16 – The President and Domestic Policy I

--Lowi, Theodore J. 1964. "American Business, Public Policy, Case Studies, and Political Theory." *World Politics*. 16:677-715

--Eshbaugh-Soha, Matthew. 2005. "The Politics of Presidential Agendas." *Political Research Quarterly*. 58:257-269.

--Cooper, Philip J. 2005. "George W. Bush, Edgar Allan Poe, and the Use and Abuse of Presidential Signing Statements." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 35:515-532.

W – 11/18 – The President and Domestic Policy II

--Chapter 10, IM

M – 11/23 – The President and Foreign Policy I

--Chapter 9, IM

--Chapter 7, JP

--Aldrich, John H., et al. 2006. "Foreign Policy and the Electoral Connection." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9:477-502.

W – 11/25 -- Project Work Day

M – 11/30 – The President and Foreign Policy II

- Gordon, Vikki. 2007. "The Law: Unilaterally Shaping U.S. National Security Policy: The Role of National Security Directives." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 37:349-367.
- Owens, John E. 2006. "Presidential Power and Congressional Acquiescence in the "War" on Terrorism: A New Constitutional Equilibrium." *Politics & Policy*. 34:258-303.

W – 12/2 – Presidential Leadership I

--Chapters 1-7, FG

--Greenstein, Fred I. 2006. "Presidential Difference in the Early Republic: The Highly Disparate Leadership Styles of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 36:373-390.

M – 12/7 – Presidential Leadership II

--Chapters 8-14, FG

W – 12/9 – Presidential Greatness

--Chapter 11, IM

**T – 12/15 – Final Exam, 1:30-3:30**