

GVPT 877—Spring 2010
Class location and time: Tydings 1136, Th. 12:30-3:15
Office hours: Th 10:30-12, W 1-2:30, and by appointment

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Syllabus for The Politics of the Presidency¹

Course Purpose and Description:

The president is the most recognizable figure in American political life. American turn out in greater numbers for presidential elections than any other type, and most undergraduates can name twenty or more former presidents. (Try asking your students to name more than three former Speakers of the House.) But for all of our superficial knowledge of the presidents and the presidency, many important questions remain unanswered. In this seminar, we will analyze a variety of traditional topics—presidential elections, executive-legislative relations, the media and the presidency, and diplomacy—in depth. We will also discuss presidential character, leadership, the role of the executive in a democratic polity, the vice presidency, and other topics. I intend to illustrate—through course readings, discussions, etc.—the variety of intellectual perspectives students of the presidency use to examine the institution. (In fact, if there is a more methodologically diverse literature in American politics, I am unfamiliar with it.) Obviously, we'll talk about how this methodological diversity may be leveraged to advance our understanding of the institution and the presidents themselves.

Course Requirements: The course includes four (4) graded components: a written research proposal, an oral presentation of the research proposal, a final exam, and participation. The weights of the various graded components for the determination of your final grade are as follows:

written research paper/proposal	40%
oral research presentation	10%
final exam	25%
participation	25%

Grades are based on a 10-point scale, unless I deem a curve necessary. I do not—as a general rule—give Incompletes.

Required Texts:

1. ***Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership***. Samuel Kernell. (4th edition, 2007, CQ Press)—(hereafter, SK)
2. ***The Strategic President: Persuasion and Opportunity in Presidential Leadership***. George C. Edwards. (2009, Princeton University Press)—GC.
3. ***Who Leads Whom?: Presidents, Policy, and the Public***. Brandice Canes-Wrone. (2005, University of Chicago Press)—BCW.
4. ***The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Barack Obama***. Fred I. Greenstein. (3rd edition, 2009, Princeton University Press)—FG.
5. ***The Myth of Presidential Representation***. B. Dan Wood (2009, Cambridge University Press)—BDW

¹ I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as changes become necessary.

6. ***Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents***. Richard E. Neustadt. (1991, Free Press)--RN.
7. ***The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton***. Stephen Skowronek. (1997, Belknap Press)—SS.
8. ***The Message Matters: The Economy and Presidential Campaigns***. Lynn Vavreck (2009, Princeton University Press)—LV

There are also a number of articles that are required reading for this course. All should be available online via the University of Maryland Library. I will also make available copies of the necessary chapters from the latest draft of my presidency text (IM).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. I am more than willing to make the necessary accommodations. Please contact me by February 11, 2010 so that we can discuss these accommodations. A written request for accommodation is required. If you have questions or concerns regarding University of Maryland disability documentation, you may wish to contact Disability Support Services at 314-7682.

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).

Religious Observances: I will make every reasonable effort to accommodate students' requests to make up tests or other assignments missed due to attendance of religious observances. It is, however, your responsibility to inform me, *in advance*, of expected absences. This is particularly true if the observance of a religious holiday will result in your missing the final exam.

General Course Outline: Students are expected to have the readings listed for each class completed prior to class. Readings may be modified as necessary.

1/28 – Course Introduction—Readings are not required as this is the first day of class. They are, however, highly recommended.

The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates (1986, Ralph Ketcham, ed., Mentor/Penguin)—pages 42-49, 114-127, 130-134, 159-160, 165-171, and Cato V.
Federalist Papers 67-75

2/4 – Presidential Elections—Campaign Effects

Shaw, Daron R. 1999. "The Effect of TV Ads and Candidate Appearances on Statewide Presidential Votes." *American Political Science Review*. 93:345-361.

Shaw, Daron R. 1999. "The Methods behind the Madness: Presidential Electoral College Strategies, 1988-1996." *Journal of Politics*. 61:893-913.

Shaw, Daron R. 2004. "Erratum for 'The Methods behind the Madness: Presidential Electoral College Strategies, 1988-1996.'" *Journal of Politics*. 66:611-615.

Reeves, Andrew, Lanhee Chen and Tiffany Nagano. 2004. "A Reassessment of 'The Methods behind the Madness: Presidential Electoral College Strategies, 1988-1996'." *Journal of Politics* 66:616-620.2/23 –

Holbrook, Thomas M. and Scott D. McClurg. 2005. "The Mobilization of Core Supporters: Campaigns, Turnout, and Electoral Composition in United States Presidential Elections." *American Journal of Political Science*. 49:689-703.

- Hillygus, D. Sunshine and Simon Jackman. 2003. "Voter Decision Making in Election 2000: Campaign Effects, Partisan Activation, and the Clinton Legacy." *American Journal of Political Science*. 47: 583-596.
- Fridkin, Kim L., et al. 2007. "Capturing the Power of a Campaign Event: The 2004 Presidential Debate in Tempe." *Journal of Politics*. 69:770-785.
- McClurg, Scott D. and Thomas M. Holbrook. 2009. "Living in a Battleground: Presidential Campaigns and Fundamental Predictors of Vote Choice." *Political Research Quarterly*. 62:495-506.

2/11 – Presidential Elections—Economic Models

Symposium on "The Economy, Obama, and the 2008 Election." 2009. *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 42:457-484.

LV, entire

2/18 – Representation and the Presidency

BDW, entire

2/25 – Power and Persuasion: Neustadt and the Study of the American Presidency

RN, entire

IM, Chapter 4

3/4 – Presidential Power and Public Support: Going Public

SK, entire

Edwards, George and B. Dan Wood. 1999. Who Influences Whom? The President and the Public Agenda. *American Political Science Review*. 93: 327-344.

Cohen, Jeffery E. 1995. "Presidential Rhetoric and the Public Agenda." *American Journal of Political Science*. 39:87-107.

Hill, Kim Quaile. 1998. "The Policy Agendas of the President and the Mass Public: A Research Validation and Extension." *American Journal of Political Science*. 42:1328-1334.

3/11 – Presidential Power and Public Support: A New Look

BCW, entire

Rottinghaus, Brandon. 2006. "Rethinking Presidential Responsiveness: The Public Presidency and Rhetorical Congruency, 1953-2001." *Journal of Politics*. 68: 720-732.

Wood, B. Dan, Chris T. Owens, and Brandy M. Durham. 2005. "Presidential Rhetoric and the Economy." *Journal of Politics*. 67: 627-645.

3/18 – Spring Break

3/25 – Time and Presidential Power

SS, entire

4/1 – New Directions or Old Pathways in the Study of Presidential Power

GE, entire

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.

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

4/8 – Legislative-Executive Relations—The Significance of Divided Government

Edwards, George C. III, et al. 1997. "The Legislative Impact of Divided Government." *American Journal of Political Science*. 41:545-563.

- Binder, Sarah. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock." *American Political Science Review*. 93:519-534.
- Chiou, Fang-Yi and Lawrence S. Rothenberg. 2003. "When Pivotal Politics Meets Partisan Politics." *American Journal of Political Science*. 47:503-522.
- Chiou, Fang-Yi and Lawrence S. Rothenberg. 2008. "Comparing Legislators and Legislatures: The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock Reconsidered." *Political Analysis*. 16:197-212.
- Binder, Sarah A. 2008. "Taking the Measure of Congress: Reply to Chiou and Rothenberg." *Political Analysis*. 16:213-225.
- Chiou, Fang-Yi and Lawrence S. Rothenberg. 2008. "The Search for Comparability: Response to Binder." *Political Analysis*. 16:226-233.

4/10 – The President and the Supreme Court

- Krutz, Glen S., et al. 1998. "From Abe Fortas to Zoe Baird: Why Some Presidential Nominations Fail in the Senate." *American Political Science Review*. 92:871-882.
- Moraski, Byron J and Charles R. Shipan. 1999. "The Politics of Supreme Court Nominations: A Theory of Institutional Constraints and Choices." *American Journal of Political Science*. 43:1069-1095.
- 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.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 2007. "Supreme Court Appointments as a Move-the-Median Game." *American Journal of Political Science*. 51: 231-240.
- Rohde, David and Kenneth Shepsle. 2007. "Advising and Consenting in the 60-Vote Senate: Strategic Appointments to the Supreme Court." *Journal of Politics*. 69: 664-677.

4/17 – Bureaucratic Politics: Does the President Run the Executive Branch?

- Woods, B. Dan and Richard Waterman. 1991. The Dynamics of Political Control of the Bureaucracy. *American Political Science Review*. 85: 801-28.
- Whitford, Andrew B. 2005. "The Pursuit of Political Control by Multiple Principals." *Journal of Politics*. 67:29-49.
- Rockman, Waterman, Rudalevidge, Canes-Wrone, Aberbach and Rockman, and Durant articles from "The Administrative Presidency" symposium in the January 2009 edition of *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.
- Bond, Jon R., Richard Fleisher, and Glenn S. Krutz. 2009. "Malign Neglect: Evidence that Delay has become the Primary Method of Defeating Presidential Appointments." *Congress & the Presidency*. 36:226-243.

4/24 – Presidents and Foreign Policymaking

- Wildavsky, Aaron. 1966. "The Two Presidencies." *Trans-Action*. 4:7-14.
- Fleisher, Richard, Jon R. Bond, Glen S. Krutz, and Stephen Hanna. 2000. "The Demise of the Two Presidencies." *American Politics Research*. 28:3-25.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice, William G. Howell, and David E. Lewis. 2008. "Toward a Broader Understanding of Presidential Power: A Reevaluation of the Two Presidencies Thesis." *Journal of Politics*. 70:1-16.
- 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.
- Owens, John E. 2006. "Presidential Power and Congressional Acquiescence in the "War" on Terrorism: A New Constitutional Equilibrium." *Politics & Policy*. 34:258-303.
- Aldrich, John H., et al. 2006. "Foreign Policy and the Electoral Connection." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9:477-502.

5/1 – Presidents as Leaders

FG, entire

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.

5/8 – Project presentations

Final Exam – Tuesday, May 18, 2009—1:30-3:30