The American Presidency

Instructor: Professor Brook Poston, JD, PhD

Required Texts: Sidney Milkis and Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency*

Class Meeting: 9:30-10:45 T/Th Human Services-Telecomm 322

Office Hours: 11-12 M/W/F, 8:30-9:30 T/Th

Office: 311 Liberal Arts North

Contact Info: email: postonb@sfasu.edu

1. **Course Description**
In this course we will examine the American Presidency from its beginnings in the era of the American Revolution to the election of Donald Trump. Special attention will be paid to the evolution of the office and its impact on both U.S. and world history.

2. **Grading and Examination**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Reading Response Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Document Analysis</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article II Revision</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Final Grades are determined as such: A=100-90; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 and below.
# Tentative Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>Constitutional Convention</td>
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Skim Chapter 1, Read Chapter 2 (All chapter #s from *The American Presidency* textbook)

- Read U.S. Constitution: Article II (textbook page 517)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sept. 5</th>
<th>Washington and the Federal Era (1789-1800)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Discussion (You will need the book for this discussion)</td>
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Chapter 3 (We will also discuss Chapters 1 and 2 this week)


<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sept. 12</th>
<th>Jeffersonian Era (1800-1824)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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Chapter 4


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<th>Sept. 19</th>
<th>Jacksonian Era (1824-1844)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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Chapter 5


The Nullification Crisis (1832):
Sept. 26  The Presidency, Slavery and the Civil War (1844-1865)
Sept. 28  Discussion

Chapter 6

James K. Polk on War with Mexico (1846)

Lincoln suspending Habeas Corpus (1861)

Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation (1863)

Oct. 3  Gilded Presidency (1865-1900)
Oct. 5  Discussion

Chapter 7

Impeachment of Andrew Johnson (1868)

William McKinley State of the Union on Cuba and Spain (1897)

McKinley’s war message (Spanish-American War) (1898)

Oct. 10  Progressive Presidency: (1900-1920)
Oct. 12  Discussion

Chapter 8

Democratic Platform (1912)

Republican (1912)

Progressive Party Platform (1912)

WWI (1917)

Oct. 17 Retro-Presidency (1920-1932)
Oct. 19 Discussion

Chapter 9

Harding’s Inaugural Address (1921)
http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=25833&st=normalcy&st1=

Oct. 24 New Deal/WWII (1932-1945)
Oct. 26 Discussion

Chapter 10: 288-306

FDR First Inaugural (1933):

FDR’s Fireside Chat on Unemployment (1935)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LW32QE-SIigI

Part II (1935)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzvh9985SaY

FDR’s Court Packing Plan (1937)
http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=15360&st=Supreme+Court&st1=

Pearl Harbor Speech (1941)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhtuMrMVJDk

Oct. 31 Leader of the Free World (1945-1968)
Nov. 2 Discussion

Chapter 10: 306-332
Chapter 11: 333-3450

Ike’s First Inaugural (1953)

JFK-Nixon debate (1960)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbrcRKqLSRw

Ike’s Farewell Address (Military industrial Complex) (1961)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWiYfBfY

Nov. 7                Credibility Gap (1968-1980)
Nov. 9                Discussion

Chapter 11: 351-376

LBJ on Vietnam (1967)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tf2xGb5Nsg

Nixon on the end of War in Vietnam (1973)

Watergate (1974):
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLHc8NR_v-8

Nov. 16                Discussion

Chapter 12 and 13

Reagan’s Inaugural Address (1981)

“Tear Down this wall” (1987)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MDFX-dNtsM

Bill Clinton “The era of big government is over” (1996)
Nov. 21        No Class
Nov. 23        No Class

You can read chapter 16 on the Vice Presidency if you want to over Thanksgiving break but I wouldn’t recommend it.

Nov. 28        Post-Cold War (2000-2013)
Nov. 30        Discussion

Chapter 14-15

Bush at WTC after 9/11(2001)

Bush after 9/11(2001)

Bush on the Patriot Act(2001)

Obama(2004)

Dec. 5        Convention Session I
Dec. 7        Convention Session II
**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices)

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

1. The student will evaluate the role of the historian in society.
2. The student will assess the significance of historical events/phenomena and analyze their historical contexts.
3. The student will locate, identify and critically analyze primary and secondary sources appropriate for historical research.
4. The student will interpret evidence found within primary sources and place those sources within their appropriate historical context.
5. The student will effectively communicate historical arguments in support of a central thesis, including the proper citation of sources using the most recent edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

This section of this course will focus on PLOs: 2-5

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:
1. The student will be able to explain the impact of the Presidency on American History
2. The student will be able to explain the evolution of the Presidency from 1787-2013
3. The student will be able to explain the special problems that have shaped the history of the American Presidency.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.