THE PRESIDENCY

TOPIC OF THE COURSE

This course will introduce students to the organization and powers of the American presidency.

LEARNING GOALS

Although the topic of the course is the presidency, the primary goals of the class are to help students refine their ability to communicate orally and in writing, develop their qualitative research skills, and enhance their ability to read and analyze sophisticated literature on politics and public policy. Students will also practice group work and collaborative writing.

READING

Required online readings will be available through Desire2Learn. Each student will also be required to read one of the following biographies:

- *Theodore Rex*, Edmund Morris
- *Eisenhower: The White House Years*, Jim Newton
- *President Nixon: Alone in the White House*, Richard Reeves.
- *President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime*, Lou Cannon

GRADING

Grades are based on two exams, two “limo memos,” and a research project. In addition, students will be evaluated on participation in a White House simulation and class discussion. This three-credit hour face-to-face course requires approximately 150 minutes of classroom time/direct instruction as well as at least six hours of out-of-class reading, writing, and studying each week over the fifteen weeks of the semester.

Details of each assignment are available online through Desire2Learn. All individual assignments must be submitted through D2L.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limo Memos</td>
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<td>Simulation and Class Partici</td>
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FINAL PROJECT

Each student will do a 2,500-word (minimum) memo reporting research and analysis on a specific topic related to the president covered by the biography chosen from the list above. A detailed assignment sheet is available on D2L. Students will be required to submit draft portions of the assignment to document their progress and receive feedback. The project is due April 23 and must be submitted through Desire2Learn. Projects will be evaluated for plagiarism using Turnitin.com.

EXAMS

There will be two exams. The midterm exam will be March 5 and the final exam is scheduled for May 5 (Tuesday) at 10:45 AM. These exams may be supplemented by quizzes at the discretion of the instructor.

LIMO MEMOS

Students are required to complete two short (500-800 words) analytical memos submitted through D2L. Projects will be evaluated for plagiarism using Turnitin.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students must attend class. All unexcused absences will result in a deduction from your grade.

SIMULATION

Students are required to participate in a group simulation of presidential advising. Grades will be assigned based on individuals’ contribution to the group and the quality of the work produced by the group.
**PARTICIPATION**

Students are expected to participate in class discussion. This will require that you complete reading assignments before class meetings. We may have short quizzes at the discretion of the instructor.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Students may stop by my office anytime. However, I am most likely to be in my office during official office hours:

- Mondays, Wednesdays: 9:30 – 11:30 AM
- Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

**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.

**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**

In any given semester, one or more of the following program learning outcomes for the political science major may be addressed in this course.

1. The student will clearly articulate hypotheses.
2. The student will critically analyze and critique political institutions and/or complex contemporary political issues.
3. The student will demonstrate effective oral communication skills.
4. The student will develop a coherent research design.
5. The student will execute a well-developed research paper.
I. INTRODUCTION
   How to Write with Style, Kurt Vonnegut
   How to Write Clearly Edward Thompson

II. THE CREATION OF THE PRESIDENCY
   Letter, James Madison to Thomas Jefferson
   Federalist No. 69, Alexander Hamilton
   Federalist No. 70, Alexander Hamilton
   Cato IV, George Clinton
   Cato V, George Clinton
   Provisions on the Presidency-US Constitution
   Presidential Disability Under the Twenty-Fifth Amendment, Congressional Research Service
   Impeachment and Removal, Congressional Research Service

III. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER
   The Strict Constructionist Presidency, William Howard Taft
   The Stewardship Presidency, Theodore Roosevelt
   The Public Presidency, Woodrow Wilson
   The Prerogative Presidency, Abraham Lincoln
   What Time Is It? Here’s What the 2016 Election Tells Us About Obama, Trump, and What Comes Next, Richard Kreitner

IV. ELECTING THE PRESIDENT
   The Myth of Presidential Mandate, Robert A. Dahl
   Every president claims to have a mandate. Does Trump actually have one, Julia Azari Nov 17, 2016
   Presidential Mandates Aren’t Real, But Congress Sometimes Acts As If They Are, Julia Azari
   The Electoral College: How It Works in Contemporary Presidential Elections, Congressional Research Service

V. THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
   The White House Staff, The President’s Committee on Administrative Management
   Staff Work for the President and the Executive Branch, Eisenhower Administration
   Staff Manual, White House Office, June 1991
   The Contemporary White House Staff, by Bradley Patterson
   The Javelin Catcher: The Chief of Staff, by Bradley Patterson
   The National Security Adviser, by Bradley Patterson
   It’s not too early to get ready for the White House, Max Stier
   The Day Reagan Was Shot Richard V. Allen
   Tracking turnover in the Trump administration, Kathryn Dunn Tenpas, Elaine Kamarck, and Nicholas W. Zeppos

VI. THE PRESIDENT AND THE PUBLIC
   Excerpts from The Permanent Campaign and Its Future: Campaigning and Governing: A Conspectus, Hugh Heclo
   Again breaking ground, Trump takes the permanent campaign to new heights, Mark Z. Barabak
   In President Obama’s White House, some traditions give way to modern technology, Juliet Eilperin
   The Presidential Pulpit, George C. Edwards III

VII. PRESIDENTIAL PERSONALITY
   Presidential Character, James David Barber


VIII.  **Presidential Power Today**  
The Power to Persuade, Richard E. Neustadt  
A New Imperial Presidency, Andrew Rudalevige  
Executive Power Run Amok, by John Yoo  
Presidential Power and Congressional Cover, Andrew Rudalevige  
The Do-It-Yourself Presidency, National Journal Staff  
Long Live The King! Paul Starobin  
Trump may have the ‘most executive orders’ since Truman. But what did they accomplish? by Andrew Rudalevige  
The Presidential "Hundred Days,” Richard E. Neustadt  
Trump’s First 100 Days Mostly Lags Predecessors, John T. Bennett, Roll Call, April 28, 2017

IX.  **Presidential Greatness**  
How Does Trump Stack Up Against the Best – and Worst – Presidents? by Brandon Rottinghaus and Justin Vaughn

"One of the greatest myths about the White House is that it’s any different from any office anywhere. There are the obvious differences, but when it comes down to the day’s work of typing and writing and talking and having meetings, man is man."

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1Charles M. Maguire, Oral History, July 8, 1969, General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Services, LBJ Presidential Library, page x 42.