

# The American Presidency

## Fall 2017

Tues/Thurs

12:00pm ±1:20pm

015 Atkinson

---

COURSE NUMBER:	POLI 40361	INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Josh Bowman
CREDIT HOURS:	3	CONTACT INFO :	Stubbs 217
PREREQUISITE:	POLI 2051 or equivalent		225-578-2383
			jbowman1@lsu.edu
OFFICE HOURS:	Tues, Wed 8-10a	and by appointment	

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an advanced examination of the American presidency as it has developed since the American Founding. We begin by exploring the origins and establishment of the presidency, and how the Framers thought about executive power. Our study will emphasize the organization of the presidency, presidential strategy, power and selection, the relationship of the executive with other branches and aspects of presidential politics and policy, as well as the significant influence which historical circumstances and individuals have had on the nature of the office. Throughout the course, we will consider the impact the presidency has on our everyday lives and how the insights of political science equip us to better understand the executive branch.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

[The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-1901](#) 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. by Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson (CQ Press, 2016)

[The Evolving Presidency Landmark Documents, 1787-2015](#) 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Ed. by Michael Nelson (CQ Press, 2016)

\*\*Books are sold at the LSU book store in a discounted bundle

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**\*\* IF YOU ARE AN HONORS, LAW OR GRADUATE STUDENT, PLEASE SET UP A MEETING WITH ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Exams (Midterm ±100 points / Final ±200 points)

Two partial take-home (open book & open note) exams will be given in this course. Exams will consist of two parts. Part I will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. This closed book section will be completed in the final 20 minutes of the class on the day the exam is handed out.

Part II will require that you briefly define key terms (concepts, individuals, institutions, documents) and establish their significance for the study of the Presidency. Part III will be essay questions of varying length.

The Final Exam is cumulative, but will emphasize material taught after the Midterm. Study guides will be provided. Further information will be given in class.

Take

CELL PHONE/TECH QUIZES : No cell phones or other electronic devices not used for note taking or reading are allowed to be seen or heard during the class period. If your cell phone rings, dings, vibrates, beeps, or leaves your pocket or bag, you forfeit your attendance grade for the day and the entire class will be given an impromptu quiz. The same policy holds if those taking notes or reading the assigned texts laptops or tablets are found to be doing something other than taking or reading class related material

ONLINE LECTURE QUIZZES : For several class periods this semester, the lecture will be recorded and made available on Moodle. In addition to watching these lectures, each session will be accompanied by a brief online multiple-choice quiz regarding that lecture. In order to receive the attendance grade for that class, you will need to watch the lecture and achieve an 80% on the quiz. Each online lecture/quiz needs to be completed the next

## LATE WORK POLICY

*No Late Exams will be accepted*

Short essays will be deducted 10 points for every day they are turned in late. Work due at the beginning of class that is turned in during or after the end of class is considered one day late. Any late work more than 8 calendar days late will not be accepted.

Late work may be turned in by email, but I prefer a hard copy when possible. Assignments turned in to my

## OFFICE HOURS AND ASSISTANCE

I am committed to helping you navigate the requirements and material of this course to the best of my ability. In addition to my scheduled office hours, I welcome your questions by email and am happy to meet with you during office hours by appointment any time I am available to do so. Please email me with a time that works for you. In general, I will always be available for my office hours. However, if you can give me a heads up that you plan to stop by, I would greatly appreciate it. Also check the Moodle Calendar for some changes in availability.

Center for Academic Success (CAS) offers valuable tools and strategies, both online and in person, to help you achieve your academic goals. Services include private consultations, workshops, tutoring, and peer-led study sessions to help maximize your learning potential. CAS also offers strategies for time management, test preparation, test anxiety, taking, as well as concept mapping and college-level reading strategies.

|B-31 Coates |2578-2872 |[cas@lsu.edu](mailto:cas@lsu.edu) |[www.lsu.edu/cas](http://www.lsu.edu/cas)

## SYLLABUS CHANGES

Due to a variety of circumstances the class agenda may deviate from the schedule made available the first week of the semester in the syllabus. As a result, essay assignment due dates and reading schedules may vary. I will make every attempt to keep you aware of any needed changes and accommodate situations where alterations in the schedule create an inconvenience. Please check Moodle regularly for updates. EXAM

## DATES WILL NOT CHANGE

## CONTENT DISCLAIMER

Any course on politics inevitably deals with life behaviors, situations and human circumstances. As a consequence some material covered over the course of the semester will be potentially more than others. Confronting divisive topics and issues which we feel very passionate about is a necessary effect of this course. The intention is never to offend but to inform. As your professor, I am committed to approaching these topics as sensitively as possible and I expect students to do the same.

animated by humility. None of us know it all and we always have more to learn. This is not to say that confidence should be discouraged, but be ready to listen and to understand. Ask questions and be prepared to

Second, there is no place in this course for condescending language toward one another. Not only is it offensive, but it tends to hinder rather than help the conversation move along. You may think someone says

people off tdearning and often distracts us from the core ideas and arguments.

Tension, mystery, arguments, conflict, confrontation, division, disagreement and difference are at the heart of studying the presidency, and these elements are critical to a good class. Every person in a discussion must be treated with respect as persons with an inviolable dignity. If the class is to be productive and educational.

## CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and/or plagiarism

(own) will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent that college rules allow. You are here to learn, develop new skills and to think in new ways. Taking an easy way out does not serve you or your future.

source, proper citation is required. If you do not know how to cite something properly, I am happy to help you as are the folks in the Center for Academic Success at Coates Hall B

You should also found online, as it pertains to academic dishonesty. Students who are suspected of plagiarism or cheating will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability for an investigation and possible penalty. This investigation could result in a zero for the assignment in question or a failing grade for the course. A second violation (for your full LSU career, not only in this course) could result in suspension or expulsion from the university. If you plagiarize or cheat on an assignment I am required to report that matter. The process is out of my jurisdiction after that. Please keep this in mind and realize that it does not matter if you cheat or plagiarize, doing so for any reason and under any conditions will trigger the process for academic dishonesty.

<http://students.lsu.edu/saa/students/plagiarism>



WEEK 4

Tuesday(9/12) The Rise of Opposition, Parties and New Challenges

WEEK 7

Tuesday (10/3) The General Election and the Electoral College

MIDTERM EXAM PART I AT END OF CLASS  
MID TERM TAKE -HOME PART II, III HANDED OUT AT END OF CLASS

PART III BEING THE PRESIDENT

Thursday, (10/5) The Changing and Expanding Presidency

Readings: Milkis & Nelson Ch. 9  
*TEP* Chs. 15, 16, 23, 26, 31, 54

-----  
WEEK 8

Tuesday (10/10) The Public, the President and the Media

Readings: *TEP* Chs. 17-18, 24, 47, 57  
Milkis & Nelson 10

EXAM DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS NO LATE EXAMS ACCEPTED

Thursday (10/12) Imagining the Presidency, the Rhetorical Presidency and Presidential Power



Tuesday (10/24)

