

PSC 305
The American Presidency
Fall, 2009
Office Hrs: Tue, 3:00 - 4:00 PM
Wed, 2:00 - 4:00PM

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Teaching Asst: Maryam Stevenson

SYLLABUS

This course will focus on the historical evolution of the office of the President of the United States. During our 200-plus years, it has been changed dramatically by the actions of particular incumbents. Special attention will be paid to changes in the balance of power between the presidency and Congress.

Your grade for this course will be based upon:

- The results of two written examinations (20% each)
- Weekly, graded, in-class discussions (40%)
These will be based on the assigned readings. A packet containing all questions is available at the UNLV Bookstore.
- Scores on presidential video tests (20%)
 - Presidential video biographies will be viewed weekly in the UNLV Library on an out-of-class basis: twenty-plus hours of viewing between August and December. This assignment takes the place of a term paper.

Policy regarding make up-exams: Ordinarily no makeups will be given. However, if extraordinary circumstances seem to require one, then students must do the following in order to qualify: (1) inform the instructor of the problem at some time prior to the exam itself and (2) provide documentation afterwards. All make-up exams will be given on the afternoon of December 2. It is the responsibility of the individual student in need of a make-up to contact the teaching assistant to find out the exact time and place.

ERes: UNLV's Electronic Reserve Reading Service: All readings other than those in your textbooks are available on the internet at <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu>. At this site, input the bar code from your UNLV ID card and then simply follow the prompts provided by the system. If you have any questions or if problems arise, call the Library's Circulation Department at 895-2111.

The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137. Their number is (702) 895-0866. For additional information please visit <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/drc>.

Cell Phones: Please be certain turn off all cell phones prior to the start of each class. If your cell rings during class you will receive one warning. After that you will be asked to leave class for the rest of the day.

Recording: I will be happy to allow you to record our class sessions, if you ask permission. However, any unauthorized recording (on cell phone, computer, camera, recorder, etc) and/or distribution will subject you to civil suit.

Safety Warning: In years past there have been attacks and car-jackings in UNLV parking lots. These tended to occur during "evening class" hours. Be alert. Walk to your vehicles in groups.

The books and materials to be purchased for this course are:

- Milkis & Nelson, The American Presidency (5th ed.)
- Academic Printing Services, UNLV, "The American Presidency - PSC 305"
Discussion Questions Packet
- Conlin, The American Past (9th ed.)

Reading & Discussion Assignments

Date	Assignment Due On That Date
August 26	- Buy the books and the packet of Discussion Questions
September 2	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapters 3 & 4 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , Chapters 11 & 12 - ERes, Presidential Leadership: An Introduction. Source: Edwards and Wayne, <u>Presidential Leadership</u> , Chapter 1
September 9	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 5. - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , Chapters 15, 16 & 19
September 16	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 6 and pp 173-180 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , Chapters 22 & 23 plus pages 399-407
September 23	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 7 - completion - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , Chapter 24 (pp. 406-413), Chap 25 & pp 530-545
September 30	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 8 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , pp 575-589
October 7	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapters 9 & 10 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , pp 589-595; Chapter 36 & pp 624-629
October 14	- <u>No New Reading: Mid-Term Exam</u> (covering all class materials through October 7. No TV documentaries)
October 21	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , pp. 280-298

- Conlin, The American Past, Chapters 41, 42, 43
- October 28
 - Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, pp. 298-322
 - Conlin, The American Past, Chapter 44 and pp. 753-760
- November 4
 - Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, Chapter 12
 - Conlin, The American Past, pp 760-766 and Chapters 48 & 49
- November 11
 - No Class - Veterans' Day
- November 18
 - Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, Chapters 13 & 14
 - Conlin, The American Past, Chapter 50
 - ERes, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Steven Covey
- November 25
Thanksgiving Eve
 - Conlin, The American Past, pp 848-856
 - ERes, President Clinton's Impeachment and Senate Trial.
Source: Pfiffner, President Clinton's Impeachment and
Senate Trial
 - Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, Chapter 15
- December 2
 - Conlin, The American Past, pp 856-863
 - ERes, Pfiffner: Assessing the Bush Presidency, Source: Gregg, G. and
Rozell, M. (2004) Considering the Bush Presidency, Oxford
University Press, pp. 1 - 20
 - ERes, The Hidden Power
 - ERes, Presidential Signing Statements
 - ERes, Conservatives Have Reshaped Appeals Courts
 - Obama reading - To Be Announced
- December 9
 - Final Exam