

PSC 305
The American Presidency
Fall, 2005
Office Hrs: T: 400-5:30 PM
W: 2:30-4:00 PM and by appt

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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 in the UNLV Library on an out-of-class basis: twenty-plus hours of viewing between September 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 December 7, 2005.

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>.

The books and materials to
purchased for this course
are:

- Milkis & Nelson,

Reading & Discussion Assignments

Date	Assignment Due On That Date
August 31	- Buy the books and the packet of Discussion Questions
September 7	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapters 3 & 4 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> (Part I), Chapters 11 & 12 - ERes, Presidential Leadership: An Introduction. Source: Edwards and Wayne, <u>Presidential Leadership</u> , Chapter 1
September 14	- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 5. - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> (Part I), Chapters 15, 16 & 20
September 21	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 6 and pp 167-74 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> (Part I), Chapters 23 & 24 plus pages on Johnson
September 28	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 7 - completion - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , (Part II), - Chapters 25 and 26 & pp 478-491
October 5	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 8 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> (Part II), pp 491-494; 525-533
October 12	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapters 9 & 10 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> (Part II) pp 534-538; Chapter 37, pp 566-571
October 19	- <u>No New Reading: Mid-Term Exam</u> (covering all class materials through October 12. No TV documentaries)
October 26	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , pp. 270-286 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> (Part II), Chapters 42, 43, 44
November 2	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , pp. 286-308 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> (Part II), Chapter 45 and pp. 690-696
November 9	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , pp. 309-326 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> (Part II), pp 696-704; Chapter 48 - ERes, The General and World War III. Source: Rhodes, Richard, "The General and World War III", <u>The New Yorker</u> ,

- June 19, 1995, pp. 47-59.
- ERes, *We Were Wrong, Terribly Wrong*. Source: McNamara, Robert, "We Were Wrong, Terribly Wrong", In Retrospect, excerpts
- November 16
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, pp. 326-349 and Chapter 13
 - Conlin, The American Past (Part II), Chapters 49 & 50
- November 23
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, Chapter 14
- November 30
- Conlin, The American Past (Part II), pp 753-765
 - ERes, President Clinton's Impeachment and Senate Trial. Source: Pfiffner, President Clinton's Impeachment and Senate Trial
- December 7
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, Chapter 15
 - Conlin, The American Past (Part II), pp 765-771
 - ERes, The Contemporary Presidency-The Bush White House: First Appraisals, Source, Tenpas and Hess
 - ERes, The Contemporary Presidency-The Changing Leadership of George W. Bush: A Pre and Post 9/11 Comparison, Source: Fred Greenstein
 - - ERes, Pfiffner: Assessing the Bush Presidency, Source: Gregg, G. and Rozell, M. (2004) Considering the Bush Presidency, Oxford University Press, pp. 1 - 20

Video tests are scheduled as follows:

- **September 28: FDR and LBJ**
- **November 2: TR, Ike and Truman**
- **December 7: All videos: JFK through "Jesus Factor"**

Exams on Readings and class discussions - October 19 and December 14