

POS 305
The American Presidency
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Spring, 2009. Dr. Jelen

Contact Information:

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Office Hours:

MW 10:-11:00 am
W 2-4 pm
and by appointment

Required Texts:

Stephen J. Wayne, *The Road to the White House, 2008* (8th Edition)
George C. Edwards, III, and Stephen J. Wayne, *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy-Making* (7th edition).
Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency: Origins and Deelopment, 1776-2002* (4th Edition).

Objective:

This course is intended to provide the advanced undergraduate with a sophisticated understanding of the evolution, nature, and practice of the contemporary Presidency in the United States. Constitutional, behavioral, institutional, and historical perspectives will be considered.

Grading:

There will be an essay midterm exam, given on Wednesday, February 18. There will be a final exam, given on Monday, Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00 pm. Each exam counts for 30% of student's final grade.

In addition on or before April 29, each student will submit an annotated bibliography, consisting of 100 word abstracts on 20-30 *scholarly* publications on a topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor.. The topic should be chosen and accepted by the instructor on or before February 18. The annotated bibliography will count for 30% of student's final grade.

In addition, there will be several out of class assignments throughout the semester. Collectively, these assignments will count for 10% of student's final grade.

Policies:

Any attempt at academic dishonesty results in failure of the entire course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance on exams, or using unattributed material from other sources.

Exceptions to the final exam schedule will only be granted in cases of **documented** medical or bereavement considerations. Make-ups for the midterm will be administered on April 29, during the scheduled class period.

Grade appeals will be submitted in writing no less than 48 hours after the return of a graded assignment. Responses to such appeals will also be written.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented 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, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>>.

A Useful Website: For a variety of services to assist students in their academic endeavors, log on to http://tlc.unlv.edu/student_success.htm

Order of Events, with Approximate Dates:

- I. Introduction: Approaches to the Study of the Presidency (January 14)**
Edwards and Wayne, 1; Wayne, 1; Milkis and Nelson 1-2.
- II. Presidential Elections (January 21-February 11)**
 - A. The Political Context
Wayne, 1; Edwards and Wayne, pp, 66-73.
 - B. The Nomination Process
Edwards and Wayne, 2; Wayne, 4-6
 - C. The General Election Campaign
Edwards and Wayne, 3; Wayne, 7-9

Wednesday, February 18: Midterm Exam

- III. Institutional Relationships (February 25-March 4)**
 - a. Public Opinion
Edwards and Wayne, 4-5
 - b. Congress
Edwards and Wayne, 10
 - c. The Judiciary
Edwards and Wayne, 11
 - d. The Bureaucracy
Edward and Wayne, 9
- IV. Sources of Presidential Power (March 11-18)**
Edwards and Wayne, 6-8; 12-14.
- V. Presidential Policy-Making (March 25-April 1)**
 - a. Domestic Policy
Edwards and Wayne, 12-13
 - b. Foreign Policy
Edwards and Wayne, 14
- VI. Models of the Presidency (April 15-29)**
 - a. The Constitutional Executive
Milkis and Nelson, 3, 6
 - b. The Minimalist Executive
Milkis and Nelson, 4-5, 7, 10
 - c. The Progressive Presidency
Milkis and Nelson, 8-9; 11-12
 - d. The Post-Watergate Presidency
Milkis and Nelson, 13-15

April 29 (2nd half of class) Makeup midterm

May 6: 6:00 pm Final Exam