

PO 301: PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

Instructor Info

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This Syllabus

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Course Description

This is a course on the American presidency. In some ways, it will be like a standard American government class. We will cover the formal features of the modern presidency. But, we will also explore consequential and unsettled questions with no easy answers. The course begins with an overview of how the presidency has been studied, followed by a whirlwind tour of the

historical development of the institution. We then turn to elections, the transition to governance, and policymaking. The course ends with topics that will require coalescence of all that you have learned during the semester.

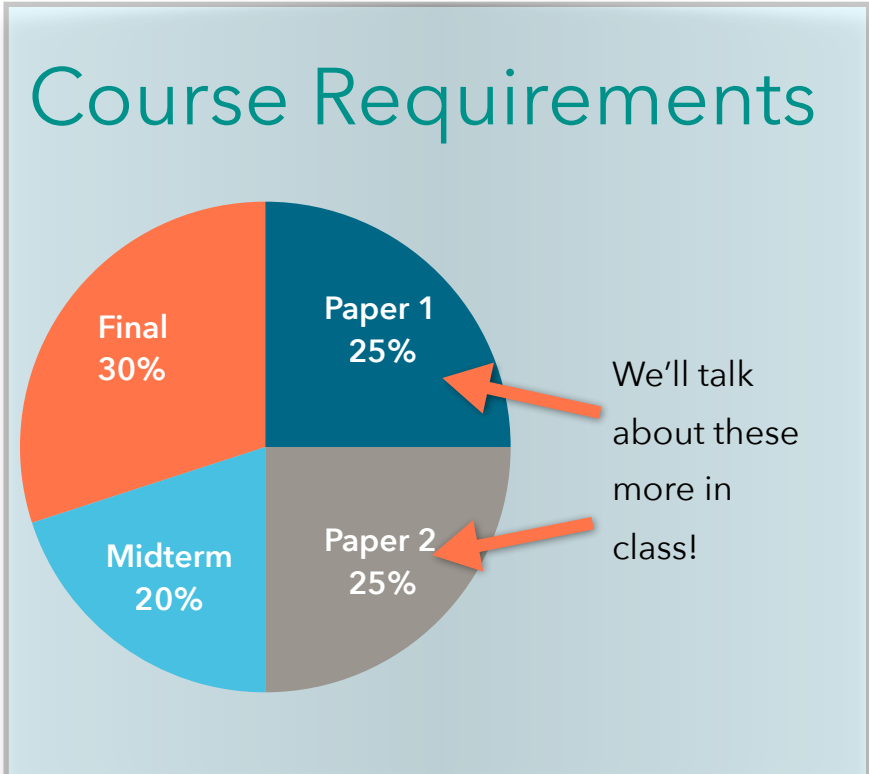
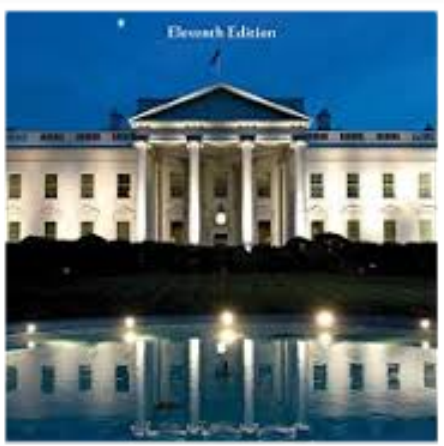




Learning Objectives

By taking this course students will:

- Develop the ability to apply political science theories to current events
- Become more comfortable with reading and consuming social scientific research
- Identify the president’s sources of formal and informal power
- Describe the executive’s intrabranh and interbranch relations
- Explain the president’s foreign and domestic policymaking tools



Buy these Books:

The Presidency and the Political System, ed Michael Nelson. 11th Edition. Washington, CQ Press. Referred to in the schedule as **Nelson**

Understanding the Presidency, ed James Pfiffner & Roger Davidson. 7th Edition. Pearson. Referred to in the schedule as **P&D**

All other materials will be available on Blackboard

Readings (and sometimes videos or films) in this class serve several purposes. One is to prepare students for lecture by introducing new ideas before they are covered. Another function readings serve is to complement lecture with new and different material that will not be covered in class.

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer (1-2 sentences), and essay responses (1-2 paragraphs). You will be tested on all course materials (lectures, readings, movies, etc.)

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
9/4	Introduction	Cronin, Thomas. "The Paradoxes of the Presidency" in <i>Analyzing the Presidency</i> . Ed. Robert E. DiClerico
9/6	Studying the Presidency: Personality/Psychology	James David Barber (1992), <i>The Presidential Character</i> , Ch. 1-2 Michael Nelson (2005), "The Psychological Presidency," In Nelson
9/11	Studying the Presidency: Historical/ Qualitative	Richard Neustadt (1990), <i>Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents</i> , Ch. 1-4
9/13	Studying the Presidency: Institutional	Stephen Skowronek "Presidential Leadership in Political Time" Cameron, Charles M. (2000). "Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power." Ch. 2 Moe, Terry M. (2009). "The Revolution in Presidential Studies." <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> . 39 no. 4
9/18	Presidential Powers: Original Design	U.S. Constitution, Article II Federalist Papers 69 & 70
9/20	Pre-Modern Presidency	"The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln", Chapter 6 in Milkis & Nelson "The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2002" 4 th ed. "Progressive Politics and Executive Power: The Presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft", Chapter 8 in Milkis & Nelson "The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2002" 4 th ed.
9/25	Modern Presidency	"The Consolidation of the Modern Presidency: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower", Chapter 11 in Milkis & Nelson "The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2002" 4 th ed. Jeffrey K. Tulis (2005), "The Two Constitutional Presidencies," In Nelson Crenson, Matthew and Benjamin Ginsberg. "Making the President Imperial" In <i>Presidential Power: Unchecked and Unbalanced</i> .

Date	Topic	Readings
9/27	Contemporary Presidency	<p>Skinner, Richard M. 2009 "George W. Bush and the Partisan Presidency." <i>Political Science Quarterly</i>. 123(4)</p> <p>Lizza, Ryan. "The Obama Memos" <i>The New Yorker</i>. January 30, 2012.</p> <p>Baker, Peter. "For Trump, A Year of Reinventing the Presidency." <i>The New York Times</i>. December 31, 2017. <i>Note: the Online and Print versions of this article have different titles.</i></p>
10/2	Primary Campaign & Nomination	<p>Lepore, Jill. "How to Steal an Election: The crazy history of nominating conventions." <i>The New Yorker</i>. July 4, 2016</p> <p>Campbell, James E. "Nominations Politics, Party Unity, and Presidential Elections." In P&D</p> <p>MacWilliams, Matthew C. 2016. "Who Decides When the Party Doesn't? Authoritarian Voters and the Rise of Donald Trump." <i>PS: Perspectives on Politics</i>. 49 (4)</p>
10/4	General Election	<p>Vavreck, Lynn. 2009. <i>The Message Matters: The Economy and Presidential Campaigns</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3 & 5</p> <p>Edwards, George C. "The Faulty Premises of the Electoral College." In Nelson</p>
10/11	!!!!!! PAPER 1 DUE ON BLACKBOARD AT 12:30PM!!!!!!	
	Transition to Governing	<p>Watch "Transition Teams" Video, Skip first 12 Minutes</p> <p>Neustadt, Richard E. "The Presidential 'Hundred Days'" in P&D</p> <p>Dahl, Robert. "The Myth of Presidential Mandate." In P&D</p>
10/16	White House & EOP	<p>Burke, John P. "The Institutional Presidency" In Nelson</p> <p>Rudalevige, Andrew. 2002. <i>Managing the President's Program: Presidential Leadership and Legislative Policy Formation</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 2.</p>
10/18	President & Congress	<p>Dickinson, Matthew J.. "Presidential Relations with Congress" In Nelson</p> <p>Cohen, Jeffrey E. 2012 <i>The President's Legislative Policy Agenda, 1789 - 2002</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3 and 4.</p>
10/23	Vetoes & Executive Orders	<p>Cameron, Charles M. "Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power." Chs. 7 & 8</p> <p>William G. Howell (2003), <i>Power without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action</i>, Ch. 1 and 4</p>

Date	Topic	Readings
10/25	Midterm Review	Watch Film "All the Way"
10/30	!!!!!! MIDTERM !!!!!	
11/1	Bureaucracy	Lewis, David E. and Terry M. Moe "The Presidency and the Bureaucracy: The Levers of Presidential Control." In Nelson The Dynamics of Political Control of the Bureaucracy. B. Dan Wood and Richard W. Waterman <i>The American Political Science Review</i> Vol. 85, No. 3 (Sep., 1991), pp. 801-828
11/6	Courts	Yalof, David. "The Presidency and the Judiciary" In Nelson Savage, Charlie. "Trump is Rapidly Reshaping the Judiciary. Here's How." <i>New York Times</i> . November 11, 2017.
11/8	President & the Press	Jacobs, Lawrence R. "The Presidency and the Press: The Paradox of the White House Communications War." In Nelson 10th ed. Hershey, Marjorie Randon. "The President and the Media: The Case of Donald Trump." In Nelson 11th ed. Kumar, Martha J. 2008. "Conveying Presidential News: The White House Press Corps Covers the President" <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> 38 (4)
11/13	President & The Public	Mueller, John E. 1970. "Presidential Popularity from Truman to Johnson." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 64(1): 18 - 34. Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2005. <i>Who Leads Whom?: Presidents, Policy, and the Public</i> . Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. pp. 1 - 6.
11/15	President & the Public	Edwards, George. 2013. "The Presidential Pulpit: Bully or Baloney?" In P&D James N. Druckman and Justin W. Holmes. "Does Presidential Rhetoric Matter? Priming and Presidential Approval" <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> Vol. 34, No. 4 (Dec., 2004), pp. 755-778
11/20	The Two Presidencies	Wildavsky, Aaron. 1966 "The Two Presidencies." <i>Transaction</i> 4(December): 7 - 14. Fisher, Louise "Invitation to Struggle: The President, Congress, and National Security." In P&D

Date	Topic	Readings
11/27	War Powers	Howell, William G and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2005. "Presidents, Congress, and the Use of Force." <i>International Organization</i> 59(1): 209 - 232. Polsky, Andrew J. "The Presidency at War: Unchecked Power, Uncertain Leadership" In Nelson
11/29	Case Study: The Cuban Missile Crisis	Film: <i>Thirteen Days</i> (Warning: Terrible Boston accents.) Allison, Graham T. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis" <i>American Political Science Review</i> . Vol. 63, No. 3
!!!!!! PAPER 2 DUE ON BLACKBOARD AT 12:30 PM !!!!!!		
12/4	Success & Failure	Greenstein, Fred I. 2009. "Lessons from the Modern Presidency" in <i>The Presidential Difference</i> . Princeton University Press. 3 rd ed. Howell, William G. 2013. "What Failure Looks Like" in <i>Thinking about the Presidency: The Primacy of Power</i> . Princeton University Press.
12/6	Abuse of Power and Scandals	Pfiffner, James P. "Constraining Executive Power: George W. Bush and the Constitution," In P&D Pfiffner, James P. "Three Crises of Character in the Modern Presidency." In P&D
12/11	Evaluating the Presidency	Howell, William G. and Terry M. Moe 2016. "The Promise of Presidential Leadership." In <i>Relic: How Our Constitutions Undermines Effective Government and Why We Need a More Powerful Presidency</i> . Basic Books.
12/19	!!!!!! Final Exam !!!!!!	

Course Policies

Late Assignments may be submitted with a penalty. For each day the assignment is late you will receive a 10% grade reduction, beginning immediately after the assignment is due.

Attendance:

- Be present in class- both physically and mentally. Phones should be silenced and put away.
- Plan to stay for the entirety of class. If you must leave early for some reason, talk to the professor before class starts that day.
- Gathering lecture notes missed due to absence is the student's responsibility.

Technology:

Tablets and laptops may be used for note taking. If it becomes clear that these devices are a disruption or distraction I will withdraw my permission for their use.

Course Communication:

The professor and teaching fellow will be available by email. Students are expected to check their BU email every day. Student emails will be responded to within 1 business day.

Course Website:

You can view your grades, obtain course materials, and submit assignments via the Blackboard site for this course.

Grading Scale

A 93 -100	C 73-76
A- 90-92	C- 70-72
B+ 87-89	D+ 67-69
B 83-86	D 63-66
B- 80-82	D- 60-62
C+ 77-79	F 0-59

Collaboration:

Students should feel free to collaborate for note taking and studying. Collaboration on papers and exams is a violation of the Academic Code of Conduct. Suspected violators will be referred to the Dean's office.

Grade Disputes:

If you wish to register a grade dispute or have your materials re-evaluated, contact the professor and teaching fellow by email with a written explanation within 7 days of receiving a grade.

Missed Exams:

If you will miss an exam due to university sanctioned travel or religious observance you may arrange to take the exam ahead of schedule. If you do not take an exam and wish to schedule a make up you must contact the professor within 12 hours of the missed exam. Makeup exams are essay based.

Preventing other students from learning will not be tolerated.

BU Academic Policies

Disability Services: Students with documented disabilities, including learning disabilities, may be entitled to accommodations intended to ensure that they have integrated and equal access to the academic, social, cultural, and recreational programs the university offers. Accommodations may include, but are not limited to, additional time on tests, staggered homework assignments, note-taking assistance. If you believe you should receive accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services to discuss your situation. This office can give you a letter that you can share with instructors of your classes outlining the accommodations you should receive. The letter will not contain any information about the reason for the accommodations.

If you already have a letter of accommodation, you are encouraged to share it with your instructor as soon as possible. <http://www.bu.edu/disability/>

Bereavement: In the event of the death of an immediate family member, you should notify your advisor, who will help you coordinate your leave. You will be automatically granted five weekdays of leave, and if necessary, your advisor will help you to petition the Dean for additional leave time. You may also request a leave of absence due to bereavement. Please contact your advisor, who will help you with the process.

Incomplete Grades: An incomplete grade (I) is used only when the student has conferred with the instructor prior to the submission of grades and offered acceptable reasons for the incomplete work. If you wish to take an incomplete in this class, please contact the instructor as soon as possible but certainly before the submission of final grades. To receive an incomplete, you and your instructor must both sign an “Incomplete Grade Report” specifying the terms under which you will complete the class.

<https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/incomplete-coursework/>

Academic Conduct: All Boston University students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the Academic Conduct Code, which describes the ethical standards to which BU students are expected to adhere and students’ rights and responsibilities as members of BU’s learning community. All instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct will be addressed in accordance with this policy. Penalties for academic misconduct can range from failing an assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the university.

<https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>