

POLS 4610
U.S. Presidency
Spring 2021

Instructor

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Office: Baldwin Hall 416
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9AM - 11AM and by appointment

Class Schedule

Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:35AM-10:50AM
MLC 148

Course Description

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to the American presidency. We will examine how the president is elected, how the president influences public opinion, how the president competes for power with Congress and the courts, and how the president influences public policy. Emphasis will be placed on the formal powers of the president and on how these powers are brought to bear on contemporary political issues..

Course Materials

The following book is recommended for the class. We will not follow the book closely, but will use it occasionally. Many students find it to be a helpful source of background material as well. I will be using the revised eighth edition. The ninth edition will work as well.

Pika, Joseph A. and John Anthony Maltese. *The Politics of the Presidency*.

In addition to the book, you should read the news on a daily basis. The New York Times (www.nytimes.com) and the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com) are two excellent sources of news on politics and government. There will be a news article assigned for each module that will be the focus of a class discussion.

Finally, we will also have readings that I will email or that can be downloaded from the internet.

Course Grading

Your grade in this class will be assigned according to the following:

1. **Class attendance and participation** (15% of final grade): Students are expected to be familiar with assigned readings and should be prepared to intelligently discuss and debate issues from the readings during class. As such, class attendance and participation will be vital to your success in this class. To be awarded full participation points you must attend class, read any assigned materials, and actively engage the class in discussion.

2. **Written Assignments** (45% of final grade): Six written assignments will be due during the term. These assignments will be 3-5 page memos that analyze a concept that we are covering in class. These assignments will be the basis of peer teaching that we will do for each module. Each of these six assignments is worth 7.5% of your grade. Assignments turned in late will be penalized one letter grade for each day they are late. After one week, late assignments will no longer be accepted. Electronic submissions of assignments will be allowed.
3. **Midterm Exam** (20% of final grade): Please take note of this date and mark it on your calendar now.
4. **Final Exam** (20% of final grade): Please take note of the date for the final exam and mark it on your calendar now.

Missed exams will only be excused for a documented illness (documentation must be provided by a physician) or a death in the family. If you are excused from an exam, I reserve the right to alter the format and substance of the makeup exam (e.g. you may not get the same exam as everyone else).

Course grades will be assigned as follows: 93–100% = A, 90–93% = A-, 87–90% = B+, 83–87% = B, 80–83% = B-, 77–80% = C+, 73–77% = C, 70–73% = C-, 60–70% = D, 0–60% = F.

Other Issues

1. **Disabilities:** Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to tell me at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services Office will be accommodated according to university policy. Contact Disabilities Services for more information.
2. **Instructor Availability:** I am available to meet with students by appointment if anyone cannot attend my posted office hours. Please email me to schedule a meeting.
3. **Technology in the Classroom:** Technology, used correctly, has the potential to greatly improve the quality of our lives. Technology, used incorrectly, has the potential of making the instructor very angry. Cellphones, tablets, laptops, etc. may be used to take notes in class, but not for playing games, checking email, or surfing the internet. Texting is never appropriate in class, unless it is to give your friends updates on the juicy tidbits you are learning about the U.S. presidency. I will understand if you can't wait until after class to share your new knowledge of Ross Perot's 1992 presidential bid or want to text about the failure of the 1868 Andrew Johnson impeachment trial. I would have done the same, if texting had been available when I was in college.

4. **Cheating and Plagiarism:** All course work must meet the standards put forth in the University of Georgia's [Student Honor Code](#). See the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) for details on what is expected of you.

Tentative Schedule

January 14 and 19/20

Introductory Module

Klein, Ezra. 2014. [“The Green Lantern Theory of the Presidency, Explained.”](#)

[U.S. Constitution](#)

[The Obameter](#). *Politifact*.

[The Trump-o-meter](#). *Politifact*.

Federalist Papers [No. 69](#) and [No. 70](#)

January 26/28 and February 2/4

Module 1: Elections

Pika and Maltese. Chapter 2.

Abramowitz, Alan. 2008. [“Forecasting the 2008 Presidential Election with the Time-for-Change Model.”](#) *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

Abramowitz, Alan. 2016. [“Will time for change mean time for Trump.”](#) *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

[538's 2020 Election Forecasts](#)

Jason S. Byers and Jamie L. Carson. 2017. [“What's Rules Got to Do with It? Parties, Reform, and Selection in the Presidential Nomination Process.”](#)

[The Green Papers](#)

February 9/11 and 16/18

Module 2: Elections Continued

Huber, Gregory A., and Kevin Arceneaux. 2007. [“Identifying the Persuasive Effects of Presidential Advertising.”](#) *American Journal of Political Science*

Issenberg, Sasha. 2012. *The Victory Lab: the Secret Science of Winning Campaigns*. Chapter 10.

Collins, Keith and Gabriel J.X. Dance. 2018. [“How Researchers Learned to Use Facebook ‘Likes’ to Sway Your Thinking.”](#) *New York Times*.

Fraud in the 2020 presidential election – reading T.B.A.

February 23/25 and March 2/4

Module 3: Performance and Approval

Pika and Maltese. Chapter 3 and 4.

Greenstein, Fred. 2005. "The Person of the President, Leadership and Greatness." in *The Executive Branch*

Druckman, James N. and Justin W. Holmes. 2004. "Does Presidential Rhetoric Matter? Priming and Presidential Approval." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

Canes-Wrone, Brandice and Scott de Marchi. 2002. "Presidential Approval and Legislative Success." *Journal of Politics*.

[Gallup Presidential Job Approval Center](#)

March 9 and 11

Review and Midterm

March 16/18 and 23/25

Module 4: Presidential Power

Pika and Maltese. Chapter 5.

Moe, Terry M, and William G. Howell. 1999. "Unilateral Action and Presidential Power: A Theory." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

Coleman, Sarah. R. 2018. "A Promise Unfulfilled, An Imperfect Legacy: Obama and Immigration Policy." In *The Presidency of Barack Obama: A First Historical Assessment*.

Mayer, Kenneth R. 1999. "Executive Orders and Presidential Power." *Journal of Politics*. 61(2): 445-466.

[Trump Presidential Actions](#).

March 30/April 1, April 6

Module 5: Presidential Policymaking

Pika and Maltese. Chapter 5 and 8.

Cameron, Charles. 2009. "Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power." In *The American Congress: Reader*.

Oleszek, Mark J. and Walter J. Oleszek. 2013. "Congress and President Obama: A Perspective." In *Rivals for Power: Presidential Congressional Relations*.

April 8

No Class: Instructional Break

April 13/15

Module 5: Presidential Policymaking Cont.

Pika and Maltese. Chapter 10.

Savage, Charlie. 2007. *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and Subversion of American Democracy*. Chapters 9 and 10.

Gideon Rose, 2015. "What Obama Gets Right." *Foreign Affairs*.

Bret Stephens, 2015. "What Obama Gets Wrong." *Foreign Affairs*.

April 20/22 and 27/29

Module 6: Bureaucracy and Courts

Pika and Maltese. Chapter 6 and 7.

Weingast, Barry R. 2005. "Caught in the Middle: The President, Congress and the Political Bureaucratic System." In *Institutions of American Democracy: The Executive Branch*.

Lewis, Michael. 2018 *The Fifth Risk*. Selected Chapters.

Binder, Sarah and Forrest Maltzman. 2016. "Is Advice and Consent Broken?" In *Congress Reconsidered*.

Anderson, Richard J., David Cottrell, and Charles R. Shipan. 2017. ["The Power to Appoint: Presidential Nominations and Change on the Supreme Court."](#)

May 11, 8:00AM to 11:00AM

Final Exam

COVID-19 Information

This information is by no means exhaustive, but is meant to provide resources for you that the University has identified.

Face Coverings:

The University of Georgia – along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions – requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at <https://drc.uga.edu/>.

DawgCheck:

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck – on the UGA app or website – whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>.

What do I do if I have symptoms?

Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I test positive?

Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is required to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?

Effective Jan. 4, 2021, students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 10 days (consistent with updated Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines). Those quarantining for 10 days must have been symptom-free throughout the monitoring period. Please correspond with your instructor via email and copy Student Care and Outreach (sco@uga.edu), to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined.

We strongly encourage students to voluntarily take a COVID-19 test within 48 hours of the end of the 10-day quarantine period (test to be administered between days 8 and 10). Students may obtain these tests at Legion Field (<https://clia.vetview.vet.uga.edu/>) or at the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in the University Health Center without an appointment. For emergencies

and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

If the test is negative, the individual may return to campus, but MUST continue to closely monitor for any new COVID-19 symptoms through 14 days. DawgCheck is the best method for monitoring these symptoms. If new symptoms occur, the individual must not come to campus and must seek further testing/evaluation.

If the test is positive at the end of the 10-day period, the individual must begin a 10-day isolation period from the date of the test.

How do I participate in surveillance testing if I have NO symptoms?

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of the expanded surveillance testing that is being offered from January 4 – 22: up to 1,500 free tests per day at Legion Field and pop-up locations. Testing at Legion Field can be scheduled at <https://clia.vetview.vet.uga.edu/>. Walk-up appointments can usually be accommodated at Legion Field, and pop-up saliva testing does not require pre-registration. For planning purposes, precise sites and schedules for the pop-up clinics are published on the UHC's website and its social media as they are secured: <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-surveillance-testing>.