

## THE POLITICS OF LEADERSHIP: THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

Conf. dr. Octavian Roske

**THE COURSE** explains why the Founding Fathers established an indirect mechanism of electing the President by means of the Electoral College system. It also explains the ways the President may influence legislative initiatives and debates. Although the Constitution grants specific powers to the President, the extent of the executive power is not clearly stated. Effective government is possible only when the President and Congress cooperate in making the government run.

**REQUIREMENTS.** Students will be required to make three oral in-class presentations summarizing or analyzing the readings, write two short papers and participate in class discussions of the materials. Grades will be determined as follows: oral in-class presentations 75%, papers 25%.

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### CLASS SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1: *Introductory Remarks. Method. Sources. Requirements***

**WEEK 2: *The Pattern of Presidential Power***

Readings: **Karen O'Connor, Larry J. Sabato, and Alixandra B. Yanus, *American Government. Roots and Reform*, Boston: Longman, 2011, pp. 264–284. Donald Trump, Inaugural Address, January 21, 2017.**

**WEEK 3: *The Presidential Campaign: Party, Issues, and Candidate Characteristics***

**Readings:** Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsie, and Stephen Ansolabehere, *American Government. Power and Purpose*, Brief Thirteenth Edition, New York, London: W.W. Norton, 2014, pp. 312–357. Republican Candidates Debate in Miami, Florida, March 10, 2016. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=115148>.

**WEEK 4: *The Presidential Campaign: National Conventions***

**Readings:** Sabato and Ernst, 101–102, 412–415. Hillary Clinton, Address Accepting the Presidential Nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, July 28, 2016. <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/28/politics/hillary-clinton-speech-prepared-remarks-transcript/index.html>

**WEEK 5: *Elections and Public Opinion: Presidential Debates***

**Readings:** Newton N. Minow and Craig L. LaMay *Inside the Presidential Debates: Their Improbable Past and Promising Future*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008. [http://press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/530413\\_intro.html](http://press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/530413_intro.html). The Final Trump-Clinton Debate, Las Vegas, October 19, 2016. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/10/19/the-final-trump-clinton-debate-transcript-annotated/?utm\\_term=.8d5da7668f28](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/10/19/the-final-trump-clinton-debate-transcript-annotated/?utm_term=.8d5da7668f28)

**WEEK 6: *The President and Congress***

Readings: **James P. Pfiffner, *The Modern Presidency*, Sixth Edition, Boston, New York, Bedford: St. Martin's, 2011, pp. 131–185. Harry S. Truman, Veto of Bill To Revise the Laws Relating to Immigration, Naturalization, and Nationality, June 25, 1952. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=14175>.**

**WEEK 7: *Presidential Power and Foreign Policy***

Readings: **Patterson, *Restless Giant*, pp. 193–217. Pfiffner, *The Modern Presidency*, 186–229.**

**WEEK 8: *Presidential Profiles: Bill Clinton***

**Readings:** Sidney Milkis and Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency, Origins and Development, 1776–2011*, Sixth edition, Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2012, pp. 410–436. Bill Clinton, State of the Union Address, January 23, 1996. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=53091>

**WEEK 9: *Presidential Profiles: George W. Bush***

**Readings:** Milkis and Nelson, *The American Presidency*, pp. 456–480. President Bush on the Prospect of War with Iraq, March 17 and 19, 2003, in *Historic Documents of 2003*, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2004, pp. 135–151.

**WEEK 10: *Presidential Profiles: Barack Obama***

**Readings:** Milkis and Nelson, *The American Presidency*, pp. 462–485. Barack Obama, State of the Union Address, January 20, 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/20/remarks-president-state-union-address-january-20-2015>.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Jillson, Cal, *American Government. Political Development and Institutional Change*, Seventh Edition, New York and London: Routledge, 2013.

Kernell, Samuel, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser, and Lynn Vavrek, *The Logic of American Politics*, Sixth edition, Los Angeles, London: CQ Press, 2014.

Lammers, William W. and Michael A. Genovese, *The Presidency and Domestic Policy. Comparing Leadership Styles, FDR to Clinton*, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2000.

Lowi, Theodore J., Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsie, and Stephen Ansolabehere, *American Government. Power and Purpose*, Brief Thirteenth Edition, New York, London: W.W. Norton, 2014.

Milkis, Sidney M. and Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency. Origins and Development, 1776–2011*, Sixth edition, Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2012.

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Thurber, James A., ed., *Rivals for Power. Presidential-Congressional Relations*, Fifth edition, Lanham, Boulder, New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2013.