

Y318: The American Presidency
Spring, 2018
TR, 4-5:15 PM, Room: Woodburn 121

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Course Description: This course will analyze the origins, development, and operations of the American presidency. Topics will include presidential elections, the interaction between the President and Congress, the interaction between the President and the judiciary, Presidential policymaking, and the President's influence over public opinion. At the end of this course students will have a better appreciation and understanding of political science concepts, theories, and methodologies and be able to apply them to contemporary political events.

Required texts: The following textbooks are required for this course. Additional readings will be posted to the course site.

- Howell, W. G. (2016). *An American Presidency: Institutional Foundations of Executive Politics*. Pearson Longman

Course Requirements:

- Three exams: 15% each
 - o Students will complete three exams. Exams will not be cumulative. Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short response. Exams are designed to test students' underlying understanding of the concepts discussed. A review session will be held before each exam.
 - Exam 1 date February 1
 - Exam 2 date March 22
 - Exam 3 date April 26
- Four Article Summaries 5% each
 - o Part of what I hope you take away from this class is an understanding of what political scientists do when they are not teaching. To this end, you will find and summarize four academic journal articles related to executive branch. These articles cannot be articles that are assigned for the course. A good starting point in your search for articles will likely be the journal *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, which is available **electronically** through the library. A handout will be distributed with further details.
 - Article Summary 1 due date January 25
 - Article Summary 2 due date February 20
 - Article Summary 3 due date March 8
 - Article Summary 4 due date April 5

– Research Design Paper 25%

- Students will write a research design paper. This paper must be between 10-12 pages. The paper should identify a research question related to the American presidency and put forth a hypothesis which answers this research question. Further, the paper should explain why the question is relevant to our understanding of presidential politics. Students are allowed to work in groups of up to three for their research design papers. Students also have the opportunity to give a five minute presentation on their research design during the last week of class. Students who give presentations will receive extra credit on their research design papers.

- Due date April 26

– Participation 10%

- Students are expected to be active participants in class discussion. Active participation does not simply mean “talking a lot.” Participation means reading the materials, coming to class prepared to ask and answer questions about the reading, and offering your opinion on the material when appropriate.

– Attendance

- Students are expected to attend each class session. However, I understand things do come up. Therefore, each student will be granted two excused absences for the semester. After your two excused absences, for each class you miss your final grade will be reduced by 1%. If you make an appointment to meet with me during office hours and do not show up, this is counted as an absence. If you leave class early, this is counted as an absence.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted. Students who do not submit work on time will receive zero credit for the assignment. Students who are absent on a day on which we have an exam and do not have a university approved excuse will receive zero credit for the exam.

Course Schedule and Readings

January 09 - Introduction to the course

Readings: The Syllabus. Seriously.

January 11 - Constitutional Foundations of the Presidency

Readings:

- Howell, chapter 1
- Zink, J. R. (2015). The dead hand of the past? toward an understanding of “constitutional veneration”. *Political Behavior*
- U.S Constitution, especially Articles I and Articles II

January 16 - The Rise of the Institutional Presidency

Readings:

- Howell, Chapter 2

January 18- Power and the Institutional Presidency

Readings:

- Howell, Chapter 3

January 23 - Nominating Presidential Candidates

Readings:

- Howell, Chapter 4

January 25 - The Politics of Presidential Primaries

Readings:

- Adkins, R. E. and Dowdle, A. J. (2001). How important are iowa and new hampshire to winning post-reform presidential nominations? *Political Research Quarterly*, 54(2):431–444
- Adkins, R. E. and Dowdle, A. J. (2002). The money primary: What influences the outcome of pre-primary presidential nomination fundraising? *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 32(2):256–275
- Steger, W. P. (2000). Do primary voters draw from a stacked deck? presidential nominations in an era of candidate-centered campaigns. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 30(4):727–753
- Steger, W. P. (2007). Who wins nominations and why? an updated forecast of the presidential primary vote. *Political Research Quarterly*, 60(1):91–99

Assignment:

- First article summary due. Upload to canvas before class.

January 30 -Exam 1 Review

Come to class with your questions.

February 1 -Exam 1

February 6 - Presidential Elections and Public Policy

Readings:

- Howell, chapter 5
- Azari, J. R. (2013). Institutional change and the presidential mandate. *Social Science History*, 37(04):483–514
- Kriner, D. L. and Reeves, A. (2015a). Presidential particularism and divide-the-dollar politics. *American Political Science Review*, 109(01):155–171
- Kriner, D. L. and Reeves, A. (2015b). Presidential particularism in disaster declarations and military base closures. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 45(4)(4):679–702

February 8- Transitions to Governance

Readings:

- Howell, Chapter 6.
- Dominguez, C. B. K. (2005). Is it a honeymoon? an empirical investigation of the president's first hundred days. *Congress & the Presidency*, 32(1):63–78
- Howell, W. G. and Mayer, K. R. (2005). The last one hundred days. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 35(3):533–553

February 13 - Presidential Accountability

Readings:

- Achen, C. H. and Bartels, L. (2004). Blind retrospection: Electoral responses to drought, flu, and shark attacks
- Edwards, B. (2017). Does the presidency moderate the president? *Presidential Studies Quarterly*
- Nadeau, R. and Lewis-Beck, M. S. (2001). National economic voting in us presidential elections. *Journal of Politics*, 63(1):159–181
- Sances, M. W. (2017). Attribution errors in federalist systems: When voters punish the president for local tax increases. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(4):1286–1301

February 15 - Interactions with Congress

Readings:

- Howell, Chapter 7.

February 20 - Interactions with Congress Pt 2

Readings:

- Barrett, A. W. and Eshbaugh-Soha, M. (2007). Presidential success on the substance of legislation. *Political Research Quarterly*, 60(1):100–112
- Bond, J. R., Fleisher, R., and Krutz, G. S. (2009). Malign neglect: Evidence that delay has become the primary method of defeating presidential appointments. In *Congress & the Presidency*, volume 36, pages 226–243. Taylor & Francis
- Cameron, C. M. (2002). Studying the polarized presidency. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 32(4):647–663

Assignment:

- Second article summary due. Upload to canvas before class.

February 22 - Interactions with the Judiciary

Readings:

- Howell, Chapter 10

February 27 - Interactions with the Judiciary Pt. 2

Readings:

- Epstein, L. and Posner, E. A. (2016). Supreme court justices loyalty to the president. *The Journal of Legal Studies*, 45(2)(2):401–436
- Eshbaugh-Soha, M. and Collins, P. M. (2015). Presidential rhetoric and supreme court decisions. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 45(4):633–652
- Wohlfarth, P. C. (2009). The tenth justice? consequences of politicization in the solicitor general's office. *The journal of politics*, 71(1):224–237
- Hitt, M. P. (2013). Presidential success in supreme court appointments: Informational effects and institutional constraints. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 43(4):792–813

March 1 - Political Control of the Bureaucracy

Readings:

- Howell, Chapter 9.
- Rottinghaus, B. and Bergan, D. E. (2011). The politics of requesting appointments: Congressional requests in the appointment and nomination process. *Political Research Quarterly*, 64(1):31–44

March 6 - Unilateral Policymaking

Reading:

- Howell, Chapter 8
- *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer* (1952), especially Justice Jackson's concurring opinion

March 8 - Unilateral Policymaking Pt. 2

Reading:

- Braman, E. (2016). Exploring citizen assessments of unilateral executive authority. *Law & Society Review*, 50(1):189–223
- Christenson, D. P. and Kriner, D. L. (2017b). The specter of supreme court criticism: Public opinion and unilateral action. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 47(3):471–494
- Christenson, D. P. and Kriner, D. L. (2017a). Constitutional qualms or politics as usual? the factors shaping public support for unilateral action. *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(2):335–349
- Reeves, A., Rogowski, J. C., Seo, M. H., and Stone, A. R. (2017). The contextual determinants of support for unilateral action. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 47(3):448–470
- Mayer, K. R. (1999). Executive orders and presidential power. *The Journal of Politics*, 61(2):445–466

Assignment:

- Third article summary due. Upload to canvas before class.

March 11-18 SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

March 20 - Exam 2 Review

Come to class with your questions.

March 22 - Exam 2

March 27 - Media and Public Opinion

Readings:

- Howell, Chapter 11
- Clayman, S. E., Elliott, M. N., Heritage, J., and Beckett, M. K. (2010). A watershed in white house journalism: Explaining the post-1968 rise of aggressive presidential news. *Political Communication*, 27(3):229–247
- Yates, J. and Whitford, A. (1998). Presidential power and the united states supreme court. *Political Research Quarterly*, 51(2):539–550

March 29 - Going Public

Readings:

- Canes-Wrone, B. (2001). The president's legislative influence from public appeals. *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(2):313–329
- Barrett, A. W. (2004). Gone public the impact of going public on presidential legislative success. *American Politics Research*, 32(3):338–370
- Barrett, A. W. (2007). Press coverage of legislative appeals by the president. *Political Research Quarterly*, 60(4):655–668
- Rottinghaus, B. (2009). Strategic leaders: Determining successful presidential opinion leadership tactics through public appeals. *Political Communication*, 26(3)(3):296–316
- Tedin, K., Rottinghaus, B., and Rodgers, H. (2011). When the president goes public: The consequences of communication mode for opinion change across issue types and groups. *Political Research Quarterly*, 64(3):506–519
- Johnson, T. R. and Roberts, J. M. (2004). Presidential capital and the supreme court confirmation process. *Journal of Politics*, 66(3):663–683

April 3- Race and the Presidency

Readings:

- Messing, S., Jabon, M., and Plaut, E. (2015). Bias in the flesh: Skin complexion and stereotype consistency in political campaigns. *Public opinion quarterly*, 80(1):44–65
- Gillion, D. Q. (2017). Obama's discussion of racial policies and citizens racial resentment in the experimental setting. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 47(3):517–528
- Schaffner et al. Forthcoming. Understanding White Polarization in the 2016 Vote for President: The Sobering Role of Racism and Sexism. *Political Science Quarterly*.

April 5 - Gender and Executive Branch Politics

Readings:

- TBA

Assignment:

- Fourth article summary due. Upload to canvas before class.

April 10 - Presidential Legacies

Readings:

- [C-Span Presidential Ranking Poll](#)
- Murphy, J. M. and Stuckey, M. E. (2002). Never cared to say goodbye: Presidential legacies and vice presidential campaigns. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 32(1):46–66
- Romero, V. (2014). Of love and hate: Understanding the determinants of presidential legacies. *Political Research Quarterly*, 67(1):123–135

April 12 - Presidential Scandal and Impeachment

Readings:

- Nyhan, B. (2015). Scandal potential: How political context and news congestion affect the president's vulnerability to media scandal. *British Journal of Political Science*, 45(2):435–466
- [Whittington, K. E. and Kinkopf, N. J. \(2016\). Interpretation of impeachment clause](#)
- Caldeira, G. A. and Zorn, C. (2004). Strategic timing, position-taking, and impeachment in the house of representatives. *Political Research Quarterly*, 57(4)(4):517–527
- Shah, D. V., Watts, M. D., Domke, D., and Fan, D. P. (2002). News framing and cueing of issue regimes: Explaining clinton's public approval in spite of scandal. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 66(3):339–370

April 17 - Student Selected Topics

Readings:

- TBA based on student's preferences

April 19 - Executives in the US States

Readings:

- Barrilleaux, C. and Berkman, M. (2003). Do governors matter? budgeting rules and the politics of state policymaking. *Political Research Quarterly*, 56(4)(4):409–417
- Fox, R. L. and Oxley, Z. M. (2003). Gender stereotyping in state executive elections: Candidate selection and success. *Journal of Politics*, 65(3)(3):833–850
- Krause, G. A. and Melusky, B. F. (2012). Concentrated powers: Unilateral executive authority and fiscal policymaking in the american states. *The Journal of Politics*, 74(1)(1):98–112
- Brown, A. R. (2010). Are governors responsible for the state economy? partisanship, blame, and divided federalism. *The Journal of Politics*, 72(3):605–615

April 24 - Student Presentations and Exam 3 Review

Come to class with your questions.

April 26 - Exam 3

Assignment:

- Research paper due. Submit to canvas site before class.

Academic Integrity:

As a student at IU, you are expected to adhere to the standards and policies detailed in the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (Code). When you submit a paper with your name on it in this course, you are signifying that the work contained therein is all yours, unless otherwise cited or referenced. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged. If you are unsure about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or exam, be sure to seek clarification beforehand. All suspected violations of the Code will be handled according to University policies. Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment, reduction in your final grade, a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities, and must include a report to the Dean of Students.

Disabilities:

If any student will require assistance or academic accommodations for a disability, please contact me after class, during my office hours, or by individual appointment. You must have established your eligibility for disability support services through the Office of Disability Services for Students in Wells Library W302, 812-855-7578.

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