

POLSC 230
Fall 2006
Sections 001 & 002: M/Th 1:10-2:25pm
HN C004
Email: wadler@gc.cuny.edu

Prof. William D. Adler
Office: 1742 HW
Hours: M/Th 12-1pm
and by appointment
<http://adlers.home.att.net/william/>

The American Presidency

American presidents are at the center of politics, both at home and abroad. But too often our fixation on one individual obscures how other institutions interact with and constrain the presidency. Congress, courts, the bureaucracy and political parties each strongly influence events, leading to limits on the power of the White House.

Instead of considering each president as an isolated case, this course analyzes the presidency throughout history, identifying patterns of change as well as continuities in presidential power. We will consider the presidency's design in the Constitution and what has led to departures from that framework. Many observers talk of the "modern presidency," and our readings will investigate this claim from a variety of angles. We will also investigate the role of the presidency in military affairs, as well as presidential campaigns.

Required Texts

There is one required book, plus a course pack. They are both available at Shakespeare bookstore. The texts are:

- Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2002* (4th edition). (CQ Press, ISBN 1-56802-739-7)

Course Pack for POLSC 230: The American Presidency, produced by Campus Course Paks (www.ccpaks.com).

Course Requirements

- 1) Complete all readings on schedule. If you miss a class, email me for the next reading assignment, as the schedule may change.
- 2) Attend on time and actively participate in class discussions. Those who arrive more than 5 minutes late, or who leave in the middle of class, will be marked absent. Each student is allowed only **two** unexcused absences.
- 3) Read *The New York Times* (or another major newspaper) **every day**. Current events will frequently come up during class as examples of the principles we discuss. This will enable everyone to connect what can be vague ideas with real-world events. The *Times* is available for free online (www.nytimes.com) or you can pick up a copy outside of the Political Science department office on the 17th floor of Hunter West.

4) I reserve the right to occasionally conduct quizzes in short answer format. This will not be necessary if I am satisfied that everyone is completing the assigned reading and participating in discussions.

5) Take at least two of the three required exams. They consist of essay questions and will be given in-class. I will likely give you sample questions ahead of the test. Only the two highest exam grades will count toward your final grade; therefore, if you are satisfied with your grades on the first two exams, you are not required to take the third exam. Make-up exams will only be given in the event of an emergency, verified with proper documentation (such as a doctor's note for illness). **Exams are cumulative.**

6) Write a research paper. This will be done in 4 stages:

1. Topic proposal. This should be 1-2 pages. Briefly describe your area of interest, and state your research question. Due no later than Thursday, September 28th. The grade for this assignment is Approve/Disapprove. If I do not approve your proposal, you must rewrite and resubmit it.

2. Annotated bibliography. This should be 1-2 pages. List no fewer than 4 separate sources that you will use for your research, not including Internet sources. Describe their relevance to your research. Due no later than Thursday, October 26th.

3. First draft. This must be at least 6 pages. Cite all sources appropriately and include a bibliography. Due no later than Monday, November 27th.

4. Final draft. This must be 8-12 pages. Make all appropriate corrections to the first draft. Due no later than Thursday, December 21st.

All assignments must be stapled, typed in a 12 point font, double spaced, with one-inch margins, and have page numbers. Papers not meeting these criteria will be penalized. Late papers will be penalized by one-third of a grade for each day they are late. Though you must also give me a hard copy, you must submit papers to www.turnitin.com:

class ID - 1547080
password - president

Grading

Work conducted towards the end of the semester will be more heavily weighted in my mind when dispensing final grades; in other words, *improvement counts*.

Attendance/Participation/Quizzes: 20%
Annotated Bibliography: 5%
First Draft: 15%
Final Draft: 20%
Exams: 40% (each is 20%)

Incompletes will only be given for valid, documented emergencies. As well, please note that Hunter College rules specify that credit/no credit grading may only be used if a student has completed all the work assigned for the course.

Any student found plagiarizing work will receive a grade of **zero** for that assignment, and will be reported to the Dean's Office for potential disciplinary proceedings.

Schedule of Classes and Exams

August 31st: Class cancelled

September 4th: Labor Day – No classes

September 7th: Introduction

September 11th and 14th: Theories of Presidential Power

Mitchell A. Sollenberger, “Presidential Vetoes 1789-Present: A Summary Overview” [course pack #1]

Michael Nelson, “The Psychological Presidency” [course pack #2]

Fred Greenstein, “Change and Continuity in the Modern Presidency” [course pack #3]

Stephen Skowronek, “Notes on the Presidency in the Political Order” [course pack #4]

Stephen Skowronek, “Presidential Leadership in Political Time” [course pack #5]

September 18th and 21st: Constitutional Design and the Federalist Presidents

Milkis and Nelson, chapters 1-3

Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist* #68, 69, 70 [course pack #6]

The Pacificus-Helvidius Letters, 1793 [course pack #7]

Stanley Elkins and Eric McKittrick, “Advise and Consent” [course pack #8]

September 25th and 28th: The Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Eras

Milkis and Nelson, chapters 4-5

Michael J. Korzi, “Party-in-Government I: James Polk and Zachary Taylor” [course pack #9]

October 2nd: Yom Kippur – No classes

October 3rd (Monday schedule): Abraham Lincoln's Presidency

Milkis and Nelson, chapter 6

Lincoln to Erastus Corning and others, June 12, 1863 [course pack #10]

Lincoln to Albert G. Hodges, April 4, 1864 [course pack #11]

October 5th and 12th: Andrew Johnson to William McKinley

Milkis and Nelson, chapter 7

Michael Les Benedict, "From Our Archives: A New Look at the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson" [course pack #12]

Michael J. Korzi, "Party-in-Government II: U.S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, and Grover Cleveland" [course pack #13]

October 9th: Columbus Day – No classes

Monday, October 16th: First Exam

October 19th and 23rd: TR, Taft, and Wilson – The Rhetorical Presidency?

Milkis and Nelson, chapters 8-9

Jeffrey K. Tulis, "The Two Constitutional Presidencies" [course pack #14]

October 26th and 30th: Harding to Eisenhower – The Modern Presidency?

Milkis and Nelson, chapters 10-11

Franklin D. Roosevelt, "First Inaugural Address" (1933) [course pack #15]

Sidney M. Milkis, "The Presidency and Political Parties" [course pack #16]

November 2nd and 6th: Kennedy to Bush II

Milkis and Nelson, chapters 12-14

Phillip J. Cooper, “George W. Bush, Edgar Allen Poe, and the Use and Abuse of Presidential Signing Statements” [course pack #17]

Curtis A. Bradley and Eric A. Posner, “Presidential Signing Statements and Executive Power”

Tuesday, November 7th: Election Day

Thursday, November 9th: Second Exam

November 13th and 16th: The Presidency and National Institutions

Andrew Rudalevige, “The Executive Branch and the Legislative Process” [course pack #18]

Kenneth R. Mayer, “Why are Executive Orders Important?” [course pack #19]

R. Shep Melnick, “The Courts, Jurisprudence, and the Executive Branch” [course pack #20]

David A. Yalof, “The Presidency and the Judiciary” [course pack #21]

November 23rd: Thanksgiving – No classes

November 20th and 27th: Managing the Presidency

Shirley Anne Warshaw, “The Formation and Use of the Cabinet” [course pack #22]

Matthew J. Dickinson, “The Executive Office of the President: The Paradox of Politicization” [course pack #23]

November 30th and December 4th: The Presidency and War

Louis Fisher, “Unchecked Presidential Wars”

John C. Yoo, “Kosovo, War Powers, and the Multilateral Future”

Andrew J. Polsky, “The Presidency at War” [course pack #24]

December 7th and 11th: Presidential Campaigns

Richard M. Pious, “The Presidency and the Nominating Process: Politics and Power” [course pack #25]

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, *Packaging the Presidency: A History and Criticism of Presidential Advertising*, Chapter 1 [course pack #26]

Matthew Hindman, “The Real Lessons of Howard Dean: Reflections on the First Digital Campaign” [course pack #27]

Keiko Ono and Clyde Wilcox, “Campaigning for Cash Amid Chaos? George W. Bush, Campaign Finance Reform, and Presidential Fundraising in 2004” [course pack #28]

Thursday, December 21st 1:45-3:45 pm: Third Exam