

**POLS 3601 –Modern American Presidency
Spring 2020**

Course

BOUS A106

MWF 10:10-11:00a

Web Page: <http://lms.uconn.edu>

Dr. Jeffrey Ladewig

Phone: 486-3747

Office: Oak 434

Office Hours: MWF 2:30-3:15p
jeffrey.ladewig@uconn.edu

Teaching Assistant

Carolyn Conway

Office: 302

Office Hours: Tues 12:30-1:30p
carolyn.conway@uconn.edu

This course is designed to introduce undergraduates to a number of historical developments that have contributed to the Modern American Presidency. First, we will explore all of the Presidents since FDR as well as analyze the development of the office of the presidency. Second, we will address a number of specific electoral, institutional, and policy issues important to the modern presidency. The running theme will be a better understanding of presidential power as well as a better understanding of the configuration, opportunities, and limitations of the modern presidency. Finally, the course will address fundamental questions concerning the relationship between the presidency and American democracy.

Throughout the semester, we will use examples drawn from the entire span of United States history to empirically demonstrate the concepts discussed – but, the primary focus will be on the post-1932 American politics. As such, there is significant attention paid to applying historical materials and case studies. The approach is designed to also give students a broad overview of the constitutional, political, and policy debates that have influenced American presidency history since the founding of the modern presidency.

Together, students should develop a firm understanding of a number of theoretical concepts typically employed in presidential studies as well as an ability to use empirical examples to demonstrate the theories. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, students should be able to ask critical questions about the presidency, the development of American democracy, and the relationship between them.

Texts

The following texts are required. The reading assignments for this course are essential and include all assigned pages. Any student who intends to do well will find the readings indispensable. Because you are responsible for all of the assigned material, I strongly recommend a thorough and timely reading of all of the assignments. I will not highlight all of important points in the books and articles.

- Milkis, Sidney and Michael Nelson. 2020. *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2014*, 8th edition. CQ Press.
- Nelson, Michael, ed. 2019. *The Evolving Presidency: Landmark Documents*, 5th edition. CQ Press.
- Divine, Robert A., et al. 2013. *The American Story* (Combined Volume), 5th edition. Pearson.
- Angerholzer III, Maxmillian, et al., eds. 2016. *Triumphs and Tragedies of the Modern Presidency: Case Studies in Presidential Leadership*, 2nd edition. ABC-CLIO.
- Additional readings posted on HuskyCT and websites.

Requirements

Your grade will be based on textbook quizzes, discussion posts, and exams.

The Textbooks Quizzes (TQs) test the information from the *American Stories* textbook. They are meant to ensure an overarching understanding of the historical context for the American presidency. There is one quiz for each of the 7 assigned chapter. Each quiz has 10 randomly selected questions from a larger question bank; each question is worth 1.5 point. Thus, you can earn a total of 105 TQ points, but the TQ contribution to the final grade is based on 100 points. As such, it is possible to receive 5 points of “extra credit” on the TQ. Further details can be found below and on HuskyCT.

The Discussion Posts (DP) ask each student to develop a short and precise argument about an assigned topic from the course. They are meant to ensure that you can integrate the various course material in to a cogent argument about the American presidency. Overall, there are 2 required DPs assignments each is worth 50 points. The DPs, thus, are worth 100 total points. Further details can be found below and on HuskyCT.

The Exams will be in-class and will consist of multiple-choice questions that address the subjects covered in the preceding section of the course. Exam details will be provided in advance of each exam. Each of the three Exams is worth 100 points. The three exams, thus, are worth 300 total points. Further details can be found below and on HuskyCT.

The grade distribution is thus:

Course Components	Total Points	Total Weight
TQs	100	20%
DPs	100	20%
Exams	300	60%

There is a total of 500 points for the course and final grades will be calculated as follows:

A : 463-500 points.
A-: 450-462 points.
B+: 438-449 points.
B : 413-437 points.
B-: 400-412 points.
C+: 388-399 points.
C : 363-387 points.
C-: 350-362 points.
D+: 338-349 points.
D : 300-337 points.
F : below 300 points.

The best way to perform well in this course is to attend and be prepared for each class. The exams and papers will consist of material that may only be addressed in the assigned readings or only in lecture. If you choose to skip a reading or a class, you will likely have a more difficult time with the exams. Additionally, I encourage discussion and debate in class and on the HuskyCT discussion board. Participation (in-class *and* online) will improve your knowledge of the material, and marginal final grades of active students will be given a second consideration.

Course Requirements: Details

Textbook Quizzes

The Textbook Quizzes (TQs) on HuskyCT test student's comprehension of the chapters of the Divine et al. textbook. For each of the 7 chapters, there are 10 multiple-choice questions randomly chosen from a large test bank. Chapter 31 is split between two exam periods. Each correct answer earns 1.5 point toward your final point total.

Each TQ is to be taken individually and independently. You may, though, refer back to the chapter and your notes. You will have an average of 1 minute per question to finish each TQ. After the allotted amount of time, the TQ will automatically be submitted.

- There is a total of 105 total TQ points in the course – 5 of the possible points are extra credit.
- The TQs for each section of the course are due by the time of the respective exam. Specifically:
 - By the First Exam on February 21st by 10:10am: Chapters 26-29.
 - By the Second Exam on April 3rd by 10:10am: Chapters 30-31 (through p. 1039).
 - By the Final Exam on F.E.D.: Chapters 31 (from p. 1039)-32.
- I recommend, though, that you do not wait until the deadlines.

Discussion Posts

The Discussion Posts (DPs) interactions on HuskyCT will require each student to “blindly” post an initial original answer to a provided question. “Blindly” means that each student will not be able to see any of the other student's posts until she has posted her initial answer. Then, each student is required to post a response to at least one other's student's initial post. These can be anything related to the content: questions, additional thoughts, debates, etc. Each set of posts (initial and response) is worth 50 points toward the final point total for the class. The grading rubric is provided on the course webpage.

The initial original post should be about 400 words in length. The best posts will weave together and cite various course materials into a creative and thoughtful argument. It may be easier to craft your initial original post in a word processing program and then cut & paste it into the Discussion Board

Each DP is to be written individually and independently. You may, and are of course encouraged, to make wide use of the relevant course material.

- There is a total of 100 DP points in the course.
- The DP for each section of the course are due:
 - The first DP deadline is April 17th by 11:59pm.
 - The second DP deadline is May 1st by 11:59pm.
- I recommend, though, that you do not wait until the deadlines.

Exams

The 3 mid-term Exams in class will consist of about 40 multiple-choice that address the subjects covered in the corresponding section of the course—particularly the parts not directly covered in the other assignments. All of the Exams will primarily cover the lectures as well as the required *Evolving Presidency* readings (be prepared to recognize each reading by, at least, the author's last name), the Milkis and Nelson readings, the *Triumphs and Tragedies* readings, and any additional posted readings. The questions also tend to be more conceptual in nature than the TQs. As such, some will find the exams more challenging than the quizzes. Each Exam is worth 100 points.

Each Exam is closed notes, books, internet, etc.

- There is a total of 300 total Exam points in the course.
- They are scheduled for:
 - First Exam on February 21st at 10:10am.
 - Second Exam on April 3rd at 10:10am.
 - Final Exam on the May F.E.D.

Administrative Policies

There will be no make-up assignments for unexcused absences and late assignments will not be accepted. An absence is excused only in the case of an emergency; documentation is required. You are responsible for providing the documentation and arranging alternative plans.

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. I will deal with it, should it occur, in the swiftest possible manner allowed by University regulations. UConn provides definitions and examples of plagiarism, the judicial process, and your rights. I strongly recommend that you review this information.

See: <http://lib.uconn.edu/help/writing/plagiarism-resources/>
<https://uconn.libwizard.com/f/plagiarism>

For discrimination and sexual harassment policies,

See: <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884>
<http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/>

Finally, we are here to facilitate your learning. I encourage you to take advantage of the course by keeping up with the readings, visiting the web site, thinking about the material, and discussing it in class, with me, with the TA, and with your colleagues.

Course Outline

Week 1 Introduction

The Pre-Modern American Presidency

Week 2 Constitutional and Pre-Modern Presidency

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 2.
- Milkis and Nelson, *U.S. Constitution*. In the Appendix.
- Tulis, Jeffrey. “The Two Constitutional Presidency” in Michael Nelson, ed. *The Presidency and the Political System*, 10th edition. CQ Press. Posted online.
- Pious, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #1.
- Pfiffner, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #2.
- Edwards III, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #4.
- Cohen, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #10.

Recommended

- Antifederalist Paper, Cato IV.
- Federalist Paper, no. 69.
- Federalist Paper, no. 70.
- Federalist Paper, no. 71.
- Federalist Paper, no. 72.
- Federalist Paper, no. 73.
- Calabresi, Steven G., and Christopher S. Yoo. 1997. “The Unitary Executive During the First Half-Century.” *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 47 (4): 1451-1562.
- Nelson, Michael. “The Psychological Presidency” in Michael Nelson, ed. *The Presidency and the Political System*, 10th edition. CQ Press. Posted online.
- Skowronek, Stephen. “The Development of Presidential Power: Conservative Insurgency and Constitutional Construction.” in Michael Nelson, ed. *The Presidency and the Political System*, 9th edition. CQ Press. Posted online.
- Duberstein, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #6.
- Gailmard, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #7.

Creating the Modern American Presidency

Week 3 & 4 FDR

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 10, pp. 347-371.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #26-31.
- Divine et al., Chapters 26-27.
- Pfiffner, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #13.
- Miroff, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #14.
- Penner, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #29.

Recommended

- Azari, Julia. “This President Bucked Norms and Fought His Own Party. He Wasn’t Named Trump.” [FiveThirtyEight](#). November 30, 2017.

Week 4 & 5 HST

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapters 10, pp. 371-386.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #32-33.
- Divine et al., Chapters 28.
- Burnes, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #15.
- Theyson, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #28.
- Spalding, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #42.

Recommended

- TBA

Friday, February 21st: First Exam.

Administering the Modern American Presidency

Week 6

DDE

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 10, pp. 386-400.
- Nelson, ed., Document # 34.
- Divine et al., Chapters 29.
- Greenstein, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #16.
- Perret, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #27.
- Thomas, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #43.

Recommended

- TBA

Week 7

JFK

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 11, pp. 401-411.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #35-36.
- Divine et al., Chapters 30, pp. 968-986.
- Bartless, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #17.
- Foust, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #31.
- Sabato, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #44.

Recommended

- Greenberg, David. "Torchlight Parades for the Television Age: The Presidential Debates as Political Ritual." *Daedalus*, Spring 2009.
- White, Theodore H. 1961. "Round Two: The Television Debates." *The Making of the President: 1960*. Antheneum Publishers.

Week 8

LBJ

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 11, pp. 411-424.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #37-39.
- Divine et al., Chapters 30, pp. 986-1111.
- Beschloss, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #18.
- Crayton, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #30.
- Kalb, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #45.

Recommended

- TBA

Week 9

Spring Break

Week 10

RMN

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 11, pp. 424-438.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #40-44.
- Divine et al., Chapters 31, pp. 1012-1033.
- Huebner, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #19.
- Ruckelshaus, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #32.
- Gerston, et al., *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #33.
- Farrell, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #46.
- Farrell, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #54.

Recommended

- TBA

Week 11

GRF

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 11, pp. 438-442.
- Nelson, ed., Document #45.
- Divine et al., Chapters 31, pp. 1033-1034.
- Mieczkowski, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #20.
- Kitfield, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #47.

Recommended

- TBA

JEC

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 11, pp. 442-454.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #46-47.
- Divine et al., Chapters 31, pp. 1034-1039.
- Yon and Amoroso, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #5.
- Zelizer, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #21.
- Caruso, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #36.
- Quandt, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #48.

Recommended

- TBA

Friday, April 3rd: Second Exam.

Recreating the Modern American Presidency

Week 12

RWR

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 12, pp. 455-478.
- Nelson, ed., Document #48.
- Divine et al., Chapters 31, pp. 1039-1051.
- Cannon, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #22.
- Rhodes, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #34.
- Cannon, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #49.
- Abshire, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #55.

Recommended

- TBA

Week 13

GHWB

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 12, pp. 478-492.
- Divine et al., Chapters 32, pp. 1052-1068.
- Burke, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #23.
- Kitfield, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #50.

Recommended

- TBA

WJC

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 13.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #49-50.
- Divine et al., Chapters 32, pp. 1068-1077.
- Jones, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #24.
- Hundt, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #35.
- Cannon, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #51.
- Victor, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #56.

Recommended

- TBA

Friday, April 17th: DP #1 Due.

Week 14

GWB

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 14.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #51-55.
- Divine et al., Chapters 32, pp. 1077-1086.
- Rudalevige, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #3.
- Baker, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #25.
- Truman, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #37.
- Baker, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #52.

Recommended

- TBA

BHO

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 15.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #56-58.
- Divine et al., Chapters 32, pp. 1086-1094.
- Woolley, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #8.
- Garrett, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #11.
- Simendinger, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #12.
- Alter, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #26.
- Zarate, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #39.
- Sanger, *Triumphs and Tragedies*, #53.

Recommended

- Wilentz, Sean. "Race Man." *The New Republican*, February 2008.
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. "My President was Black." *The Atlantic*, January/February 2017.

Week 15

DJT and the Future of the Modern Presidency

- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 16.
- Nelson, ed., Documents #59-60.
- Abshire. 1999. *The Character of George Washington and the Challenges of the Modern Presidency*. Center for the Study of the Presidency.
- Azari, Julia. "Trump is a 19th-Century President Facing 21st-Century Problems." [FiveThirtyEight](#). August 28, 2017.

Recommended

- TBA

Friday, May 1st: DP #2 Due.

May F.E.D. Final Exam (TBA)

F.E.D. Third Exam.

Appendix

Some useful website for your presidential briefs – among other things.

<http://millercenter.org>

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents>

<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/>

<http://uselectionatlas.org>

<http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/us-presidents-in-order>