The tendency has long been to compartmentalize the study of government institutions on the side of order, system, and routine in politics, to identify them with “politics-as-usual” and look outside of them for the “real” forces of change. But the presidency has never fit this frame very well. Array the stories of the presidents in succession—each in turn endowed with broad constitutional powers and determined to exercise them in his own right—and the blunt disruptive force of this institution instantly comes to the fore. Together these stories tell of an office that regularly reaches beyond itself to assert control over others, one whose deep-seated impulse to reorder things routinely jolts order and routine elsewhere, one whose normal activities and operations alter system boundaries and recast political possibilities.

Books available for purchase:
- Victor Davis Hanson, *The Case for Trump* (Basic, 2019) [ISBN 9781541673540]

Course Website:
A course website will be available to registered students through the Moodle system.

Library Reserve:
Although most of the readings for the course will be in the textbook and the two new books on President Trump, with the others available through Moodle, several books on the presidency will be placed on reserve in Middleton library for you to consult if you wish.

SYLLABUS:

Mon., 8/26  Introduction: Monarchs and Republicans
The Constitution, Art. 1, sect. 3, cl. 4-7; sect. 7; Art. II

I. THE ORIGINAL PRESIDENCY

Wed., 8/28  Designing a Presidential Republic
SOURCES: An Old Whig, #5; Cato, #4; *The Federalist*, ##67-70

Wed., 9/4  Empowering the President
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 2 (pp. 33-82)
SOURCES: *The Federalist*, ##71-77

Mon., 9/9  Washington Establishes the Presidency

Wed., 9/11  Jefferson Modifies the Presidency
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 4 (pp. 121-150)

Mon., 9/16  Federalists versus Republicans
SOURCES: Washington, First Inaugural; Madison, on Removal Power; Pacificus-Helvidius Letters; Washington, Farewell Address; Jefferson, First Inaugural; Jefferson, Misc. Letters; Monroe Doctrine
II. THE ELASTIC PRESIDENCY

Wed., 9/18  Jacksonian Populism
Milkis & Nelson, American Presidency, ch. 5 (pp. 151-188)
SOURCES: Jackson, First Message to Congress; Jackson, Veto Message on the Bank; Clay, Speech on Bank Veto; Jackson, Proclamation on Nullification

Mon., 9/23  Lincoln’s Authority
Milkis & Nelson, American Presidency, ch. 6 (pp. 189-216)
SOURCES: Lincoln, First Inaugural Address; July 4, 1861, Message to Congress; Emancipation Proclamation; Gettysburg Address; Second Inaugural Address

Wed., 9/25  The Presidency in Retreat
Milkis & Nelson, American Presidency, ch. 7 (pp. 217-260)
SOURCES: Ex parte Milligan; Pendleton Act; James Bryce, “Why Great Men Are Not Chosen President”

III. INTERLUDE: UNDERSTANDING THE PRESIDENCY

Mon., 9/30  Richard Neustadt, Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents, ch. 1-3 (pp. 3-49)


Mon., 10/7  MIDTERM EXAM

IV. THE MODERN PRESIDENCY

Wed., 10/9  The Progressive Republicans
Milkis & Nelson, American Presidency, ch. 8 (pp. 261-291)
SOURCES: TR and Taft, Speeches & Writings on Presidential Power

Mon., 10/14  The Progressive Democrat
Milkis & Nelson, American Presidency, ch. 8 (pp. 291-317)
SOURCES: Wilson, Constitutional Government (excerpt); Official Bulletins of Creel Committee
Wed., 10/16  Normalcy Republicans
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 9 (pp. 319-346)
SOURCES: Bureau of the Budget; *Myers v. US*

Mon., 10/21  Franklin Roosevelt as the Model Modern President
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 10 (pp. 347-371)
SOURCES: FDR, First Inaugural; *Humphrey’s Executor v. US*; FDR, Court-packing Speech; Brownlow Committee; *US v. Curtiss-Wright*

Wed., 10/23  The President as World Leader
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 10 (pp. 371-400)
SOURCES: Truman Doctrine; *Youngstown Sheet & Tube v. Sawyer*; Eisenhower, Little Rock Address

Mon., 10/28  Personalizing the Modern Presidency
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 11 (pp. 401-424)
SOURCES: Kennedy, Inaugural; LBJ, Speeches

Wed., 10/30  The Presidency in Crisis
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 11 (pp. 424-454)
SOURCE: *US v. Nixon*; War Powers Resolution

Mon., 11/4  Reviving the Presidency: the Reagan Revolution
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 12 (pp. 455-492)
SOURCES: Reagan, First Inaugural; *Morrison v. Olsen*

Wed., 11/6  Rescuing Liberalism?
SOURCES: *Clinton v. Jones, Clinton v. City of New York*

Mon., 11/11  The Twenty-first Century Presidency: Bush
SOURCES: *Bush v. Gore*; Bush, signing statement; *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*

Wed., 11/13  The Twenty-first Century Presidency: Obama
SOURCES: Obama, Speeches; *NLRB v. Noel Canning*

V. THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY

Mon., 11/18  The Twenty-first Century Presidency: Trump
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 16 (pp. 581-608)
SOURCES: *Trump v. Hawaii*; Lewis, “Presidential Authority over Trade”
Wed., 11/20  Trump and the Electorate  
            Victor Davis Hanson, *The Case for Trump*, pp. 1-126

Mon., 11/25  Trump’s Opposition  
            Hanson, *The Case for Trump*, pp. 129-256

[THANKSGIVING BREAK]

Mon, 12/2   Understanding Trump?  
            Hanson, *The Case for Trump*, pp. 257-352

Wed, 12/4   Coda: The Vice Presidency  
            Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 17 (pp. 609-642)  
            SOURCES: Mondale memorandum

FINAL EXAMINATION (Tuesday, December 10, 5:30-7:30 pm)