

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.

—Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make* (1993)

Political Science 4036

The American Presidency

Fall 2019

Instructor: James Stoner <poston@lsu.edu>
Stubbs 214 (tel: 225-578-2538)

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00-11:00 am;
Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm; and by appointment

Course requirements:

- Regular attendance for the entire class period [deductions for unexcused absence]
- Daily quizzes on the reading [20%]
- Midterm examination, on October 7 [20%]
- 1500/2000-word paper on a president’s speeches and deeds: topic due August 30; research by the appropriate class; papers due Friday of the following week [30%]
- Final examination, Tuesday, December 10, 5:30-7:30 pm [30%]

Graduate Students and Honors Option:

- 1000-word papers on (1) Harvey Mansfield, *Taming the Prince* (Free Press) [ISBN 9780029199800] AND (2) Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make* (Harvard) [ISBN 9780674689374] due, in either order, on October 1 and December 6 [due dates negotiable; combined worth equals term paper, percentages adjusted]

Grading scale:

A+ (98%-100%), A (93%-97%), A- (90%-92%)
B+ (88%-90%), B (83%-87%), B- (80%-82%)
C+ (78%-80%), C (73%-77%), C- (70%-72%)
D+ (68%-70%), D (63%-67%), D- (60%-62%)
F (below 60%)

Books available for purchase:

- Sidney M. Milkis & Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2018*, 8th ed. (Sage/CQ Press, 2020) [ISBN 9781544323121]
- Victor Davis Hanson, *The Case for Trump* (Basic, 2019) [ISBN 9781541673540]
- Michael Nelson, *Trump: The First Two Years* (Virginia, 2019) [ISBN 9780813942797] [recommended]

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
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 1 (pp. 1-31)
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
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 3 (pp. 83-119)

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

- 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?
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 13 (pp. 493-522)
SOURCES: *Clinton v. Jones*, *Clinton v. City of New York*
- Mon., 11/11 The Twenty-first Century Presidency: Bush
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 14 (pp. 523-550)
SOURCES: *Bush v. Gore*; Bush, signing statement; *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*
- Wed., 11/13 The Twenty-first Century Presidency: Obama
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 15 (pp. 551-580)
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)