

**The Presidency**  
**POS 6933 (graduate level)**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**University of Florida**

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This graduate seminar is designed as an overview of major research topics pertaining to the United States Presidency. Because much of the scholarly literature on the presidency has been viewed as atheoretical, unsystematic, and/or largely descriptive, emphasis will be placed on recent advances in theory-building and methodological approaches. In addition to covering substantive areas of the presidency at each seminar meeting, we will review articles from the collection of essays in books edited by Shapiro et al. and Edwards et al. to discuss the application of “power,” behavioral, quantitative, and formal theoretical approaches to the presidency.

In addition to active participation in seminar discussions, students are to prepare a research paper of approximately 20-25 pages (journal length). The paper should represent an endeavor which, fully developed through additional research and analysis, could be worthy of a conference presentation or journal submission. Students are expected to theorize about a particular aspect of the presidency and set forth a substantive question or problem, a hypothesis or hypotheses, and methodological approach to the question of inquiry. Students are encouraged to collect relevant data and undertake data analysis, as appropriate to the focus of their research.

Students may approach the research question of interest to them from a longitudinal or case-study perspective. Potential topics include campaigns, public opinion, executive-legislative relations, press relations, White House organization/management, and decision-making. Students should use the various frameworks in the course readings as a springboard for developing new, creative, and innovative approaches.

The research paper will constitute 50% of the course grade (due date will be announced in class); a preliminary outline of the research paper is due on March 9 (5-7 pp) and constitutes 10% of the course grade. A presentation/analysis of one of the weeks’ “selected research articles” will comprise another 10% of the course grade. Attendance and participation will constitute the final 20% of the course grade.

Books are available at area book stores and are listed in Appendix 1. Journal articles will be available on line at JSTOR and/or through the Library West web sources.

## **January 10 – Introduction**

### **January 19 – The Nature of Presidential Power: Neustadt Then and Now**

Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*.

Michael Nelson, “Evaluating the Presidency,” in Nelson.

Edwards, “Neustadt’s Power Approach to the Presidency,” in Shapiro et al.

Lyn Ragsdale, “Personal Power and Presidents,” in Shapiro et al.

Stephen Skowronek, “Presidential Leadership in Political Time,” in Nelson.

Jeffrey Tulis, “The Two Constitutional Presidencies,” in Nelson.

Sidney Milkis, “The President and the Political Parties,” in Nelson.

Gary King, “The Methodology of Presidential Research,” in Edwards et al.

### **January 26 – Presidential Elections**

Stephen J. Wayne, *The Road to the White House 2004*.

Richard Pious, “The Presidency and the Nominating Process,” in Nelson.

John Aldrich and John Griffin, “The Presidency and the Campaign,” in Nelson.

#### *Selected Research Article:*

Gary C. Jacobson, “Polarized Politics and the 2004 Congressional and Presidential Elections.” *Political Science Quarterly* 120, No. 2 (Summer 2005): 199-218.

### **February 2 – The Public Presidency I**

Samuel Kernell, *Going Public* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

Renée Smith, “The Timing of Presidential Speeches,” in Shapiro et al.

Martha Joynt Kumar, “The President as Message and Messenger,” in Shapiro et al.

Diane Heith, “Presidential Polling and the Potential for Leadership,” in Shapiro et al.

#### *Selected Research Articles:*

Gregory Hager and Terry Sullivan, “President-Centered and Presidency-Centered Explanations of Presidential Public Activity.” *American Journal of Political Science* 38, No. 4 (1994): 1079-1103.

Tim Groeling and Samuel Kernell, “Is Network News Coverage of the President Biased?” *Journal of Politics* 60, No. 4 (1998): 1063-1087.

## **February 9 – The Public Presidency II**

George C. Edwards III, *On Deaf Ears: The Limits of the Bully Pulpit*.

Bruce Miroff, “The Presidential Spectacle,” in Nelson.

Lawrence Jacobs, “The Presidency and the Press,” in Nelson.

### *Selected Research Article:*

Brandice Canes-Wrone, “The President’s Legislative Influence from Public Appeals.” *American Journal of Political Science* 45, No. 2 (2001): 313-329.

## **February 16 – The Institutional Presidency I**

John Burke and Michael Nelson, *The Institutional Presidency*.

Bert Rockman, “Staffing and Organizing the Presidency,” in Shapiro et al.

Kenneth R. Mayer and Thomas Weko, “The Institutionalization of Power,” in Shapiro et al.

Matthew Dickinson, “Staffing the White House, 1937-1996,” in Shapiro et al.

Paul Quirk, “Presidential Competence,” in Nelson.

Karen Hult, “Advising the President,” in Edwards et al.

### *Selected Research Article:*

Kathryn Dunn Tenpas and Matthew J. Dickinson, “Governing, Campaigning, and Organizing the Presidency: An Electoral Connection?” *Political Science Quarterly* 112, No. 1 (Spring 1997): 51-66.

## **February 23 – The Institutional Presidency II**

Kenneth Mayer, *With the Stroke of a Pen: Executive Orders and Presidential Power*.

Terry Moe, “The Presidency and the Bureaucracy: The Presidential Advantage,” in Nelson.

David Epstein and Sharyn O’Halloran, “The Institutional Face of Presidential Power,” in Shapiro et al.

Paul C. Light, “Presidential Policy Making,” in Edwards et al.

### *Selected Research Article:*

George A. Krause and Jeffrey E. Cohen, “Opportunity, Constraints, and the Development of the Institutional Presidency: The Issuance of Executive Orders, 1939-96,” *Journal of Politics* 62, No. 1 (2000): 88-114.

## **March 2 – Unilateral Actions**

William Howell, *Power without Persuasion*.

*Selected Research Article:*

Christopher J. Deering and Forrest Maltzman, “The Politics of Executive Orders: Legislative Constraints on Presidential Power.” *Political Research Quarterly* 52, No. 4 (1999): 767-783.

## **March 9 - From the Institutional Presidency to Relations with Congress: Archival/Quantitative Analysis and the “Two Presidencies”**

Andrew Rudalevige, *Managing the President’s Program*.

Duane Oldfield and Aaron Wildavsky, “Reconsidering the Two Presidencies,” *Society* 26 (1989): 54-9.

*Selected Research Article:*

Richard Fleisher et al., “The Demise of the Two Presidencies,” *American Politics Quarterly* 28 (2000).

## **March 16 - NO MEETING/SPRING BREAK**

### **March 23 – Legislative Leadership: Quantitative Approaches**

Jon Bond and Richard Fleisher, *The President in the Legislative Arena*.

Jon Bond and Richard Fleisher, “The President in a More Partisan Legislative Arena,” *Political Research Quarterly* 49, no. 4 (1996).

Matthew Dickinson, “The President and Congress,” in Nelson.

Barbara Sinclair, “Studying Presidential Leadership,” in Edwards et al.

*Selected Research Article:*

Brad Lockerbie et al., “An Integrative Approach to Modeling Presidential Success in Congress.” *Political Research Quarterly* 51, No. 1 (1998): 155-172.

### **March 30 - Divided Government and the Legislative Presidency**

Richard Conley, *The Presidency, Congress and Divided Government*.

Paul Quirk and Bruce Nesmith, "Divided Government and Policymaking," in Nelson.

Charles Cameron, "Bargaining and Presidential Power," in Shapiro et al.

Terry Moe, "Presidents, Institutions, and Theory," in Edwards et al.

#### *Selected Research Article:*

George C. Edwards et al., "The Legislative Impact of Divided Government." *American Journal of Political Science* 41, No. 2 (1997): 545-563.

Recommended: David Mayhew, *Divided We Govern*.

### **April 6 – The Presidential Veto**

Charles Cameron, *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*.

Richard Conley, "George Bush and the 102nd Congress: The Impact of Public and Private Veto Threats on Policy Outcomes." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 33, No. 4 (December 2003): 730-50.

Rebecca E. Deen and Laura W. Arnold, "Veto Threats as a Policy Tool: When to Threaten?" *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 32, No. 1 (2002): 30-45.

#### *Selected Research Article:*

Richard Conley and Amie Kreppel, "Toward a New Typology of Vetoes and Overrides." *Political Research Quarterly* 56, No. 4 (December 2001): pp. 831-852.

### **April 13 - The Psychological Presidency**

James David Barber, *Presidential Character*.

Michael Nelson, "The Psychological Presidency," in Nelson.

Erwin Hargrove, "Presidential Personality and Leadership Style," in Edwards et al.

Susan Fiske, "Cognitive Theory and the Presidency," in Edwards et al.

#### *Selected Research Article:*

Steven Greene, "The Role of Character Assessments in Presidential Approval." *American Politics Research* 29, No. 2 (2001): 196-.

### **April 20 – Comparative Perspectives/Presentation of Individual Projects**

## Appendix Book List

- Barber, James David. 1992. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Bond, Jon and Richard Fleisher. 1990. *The Presidency in the Legislative Arena*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Burke, John and Michael Nelson. 2000. *The Institutional Presidency: Organizing and Managing the White House from FDR to Clinton*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Cameron, Charles. 2000. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*. Boston: Cambridge University Press.
- Conley, Richard S. 2002. *The Presidency, Congress, and Divided Government: A Postwar Assessment*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.
- Edwards, George C. 2003. *On Deaf Ears: The Limits of the Bully Pulpit*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Edwards III, George C., John H. Kessel, and Bert A. Rockman, eds. 1993. *Researching the Presidency: Vital Questions, New Approaches*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Howell, William. 2003. *Power without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Kernell, Samuel. 1997. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*, third edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Mayer, Kenneth. 2002. *With the Stroke of a Pen: Executive Orders and Presidential Power*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Nelson, Michael, ed. 2002. *The Presidency and the Political System*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Neustadt, Richard. 1991. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. New York: Free Press.
- Rudalevige, Andrew. 2002. *Managing the President's Program*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Shapiro, Robert Y., Martha Joynt Kumar, and Lawrence R. Jacobs. 2000. *Presidential Power: Forging the Presidency for the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Wayne, Stephen J. 2004. *The Road to the White House 2004*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.