

POS 4413: The American Presidency

(Course #18961)

Instructor: Professor E. Patrick Smith
Classroom - Bidg: LA 120 FAU (Davie Campus)

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Office Hours - MWF 9:00 - 10:00 am, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
TR 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Wed 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Or by appointment

Textbook: Presidential Leadership - 6th Edition
by Edwards and Wayne

Course Description: This course analyzes the development of the modern American Presidency. It focuses on the myriad of duties, roles and responsibilities, which are incumbent upon the individuals occupying the White House during the 21st century. This individual is expected by the American public to develop and implement a domestic policy agenda, formulate and defend American national interests abroad, and administer the executive branch agencies as their titular head. However, conflict with the U.S. Congress, influence by well-organized interest groups, and the scrutiny of an aggressive media all tend to undermine or make difficult the implementation of presidential initiatives. To better understand this tension over presidential power, the class will examine the qualities of successful presidents, the dynamics of executive leadership, and the constant interaction among the various power centers of the national government. Has the Presidency become too powerful? Is image more important than substantive policy? Do presidents "control" the government and shape public opinion? Do we as voters get the type of individual envisioned by our Founding Fathers and codified in the U.S. Constitution? These and other salient issues will be examined over the course of the semester.

Course Requirements: Due to the nature of the class it is expected that students subscribe to or purchase and *read* the NY Times, Washington Post or other major newspaper to remain abreast of the many issues and policies emanating from the executive branch. There will be **three (3)** examinations at the time and dates indicated in the syllabus. Each exam will count for 25 of the final grade. In addition, each student will select one (1) book for critique and review. This book review will be 3 - 5 pages in length and include a critical analysis of a monograph dealing with one aspect of the U.S. Presidency. Book reviews will be due no later than **November 24, 2004**. Regular class attendance is expected. Each student will be permitted two (2) unexcused absences. Any further class absences must be for emergency reasons and require written documentation (i.e. a doctor's excuse). Missing three or more classes will necessitate a one letter grade reduction. Cheating as defined by the FAU Catalog will result in extreme disciplinary action such as failure (F) for the course. If you don't know what constitutes plagiarism, please check with the instructor. Good Luck!

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Lectures/Discussion</u>	<u>Reading Assignments</u>
Aug 25	Course Introduction Overview of American Presidency	Chap. 1
Sept 1	Conclusion of Historical Overview Growth of Presidential Power in 20th Century Discussion: Evaluating US Presidents.	Chap. 2 & 3
Sept 8	Analysis of Election of 2000 - Bush vs. Gore; Discussion/Debate Election of 2004	Chap. 4
Sept 15	President as Popular leader "Shaper of Public Opinion"	Chap. 5
Sept 22	President and the Media	Prepare for Exam# 1 (Chap. 1-5 inclusive)
Sept 29	Test # 1 (25% of final grade) Chap. 1-5 and lecture materials	Chap. 6 & 7
Oct 06	Presidential decision-making Managing the Executive Branch	Chap. 8
Oct 13	Presidential Character: The Barber Analysis & Approach	Chap. 10
Oct 20	President & Congress	Chap. 11 Prepare for Exam #2 (Chap. 6,7,8,10)
Oct 27	Test #2 (25% of final grade) Chap. 6, 7, 8,10.	Chap. 12
Nov 03	President and Supreme Court	Chap. 13
Nov 10	President & Economic Policy The Budget and Other Issues	Chap. 14
Nov 17	Foreign Policy: Case studies of US Presidents	"Articles on Defense Policy"
Nov 24	Book Reviews DUE on this date!!!	25% of Final Grade

Dec 01	US Defense Issues: Star Wars Redux, Military Preparedness and US Overseas Commitments.	Prepare for final exam (Chap. 11-14 inclusive)
Dec 08	Final Exam - Chap 11-14 Inclusive	(25% of Final Grade)