

Government 2005  
Spring 2018  
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Drop in Office Hours: Tuesday, 4-5 p.m. [Any change will be announced in class and/or posted on my office door]. I welcome and encourage students to schedule a mutually convenient appointment time—email potential days and a range of available times—early evening appointments and Sunday afternoon appointments may be available.

## **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY**

This course is an introduction to the American Presidency in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During this semester the focus will be on the development of the modern presidency; the presidency as an institution and its spectacular growth and evolution during the 20<sup>th</sup> century; presidential advisors and the executive branch; the President's role in domestic and foreign policy making; and the nomination and election process.

Throughout the semester attention will be given to the Trump administration, including the administration's role vis a vis Congress, agendas, the budget, policy-making, Senate confirmation of appointees, and the President's relationship to the public. In looking at the Trump presidency, comparisons will be made with prior administrations; scholarly works on the presidency will be drawn upon to provide a context for examining the Trump presidency.

### **Required Texts**

Thomas E. Cronin, Michael A. Genovese, and Meena Bose, *The Paradoxes of the American Presidency* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Oxford University Press, 2018)

### **Optional Texts, but Required Reading**

Since only some of the chapters have been assigned in the following books, and the chapters will be available on reserve, the following books are listed as optional:

James P. Pfiffner and Roger H. Davidson, *Understanding the Presidency*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

Janet M. Martin and MaryAnne Borrelli, *The Gendered Executive: A Comparative Analysis of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and other Chief Executives*. Chapters are available on reserve. I can also order a copy for you to purchase for \$23.00 (and will place an order Thursday afternoon; payment can be made when books arrive).

Additionally, Stephen J. Wayne's *The Road to the White House*, 2016, 10<sup>th</sup> edition (or subsequent post 2016 election edition), while not assigned, can give you insight into all aspects of presidential nomination contests and elections. Wayne offers so much detail that the book covers far more than we will look at in the course, but if you are interested in campaigns and elections I highly recommend any of the editions.

### **Additional Required Reading:**

Articles on reserve as listed below; readings distributed in class; readings and writings posted on Blackboard and/or announced in class.

*The New York Times* or the *Wall Street Journal* or another comparable newspaper [emphasis is on “paper” (print version)] - daily or weekly reading, especially concerning President Trump and his administration. News coverage of the White House is important, but the placement of articles in print vs. broadcast vs. Internet sources is also equally important to note. Also, become familiar with [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov), the official website of the current administration. And follow the tweets!

### **Course Requirements**

Mid-term exam	25%
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Research Paper with a focus on the modern Presidency, using primary source material	25%
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Course Project: short film documentaries (Specific topics will be announced and detailed information distributed later in the semester)	20%
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Final Exam	20%
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Class Participation (meaningful, thoughtful, substantive, analytical contributions, e.g., in assigned critiques; in class discussion). In addition, if there is material appropriate to others’ film projects you can help make them aware of that material or offer technical expertise. Be sure to acknowledge assistance in citations.	10%
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At minimum, attendance is expected in all classes. Attendance is **MANDATORY on May 7<sup>th</sup>, both in class and at the Film Festival that evening**, and for all class critiques.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

(Approximate dates for topics and readings are listed for each section.)

#### **I. Course Overview and Introduction to the American Presidency**

##### **A. Studying the Presidency [Jan. 22, 24]**

**Readings:** Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Preface

B. The Transition; Running for Office vs. Governing in Office [Jan. 29]

Readings: Pfiffner and Davidson: #30 Burke; #39 Pfiffner (on reserve)

C. The U.S. Presidency in a Comparative and Gendered Context; Identity, Ambition, and Representation [Jan. 29, 31, Feb. 5]

Readings: Martin and Borrelli: Ch. 1 (Martin and Borrelli, on reserve); Ch. 3 (Gooding, on reserve); Ch. 7 (Rotramel, on reserve); Ch. 13 (Escobar-Lemmon and Taylor-Robinson, on reserve);

II. Managing the Executive Branch and the Emergence of the Modern Presidency  
[February 7, 12, 14, 19, 21]

A. The Growth of Government; The Departments and the Cabinet; The Administrative Presidency; Executive Orders; Administrative Directives; Signing Statements

Readings: Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Ch. 7, pp. 136-150

Pfiffner and Davidson: # 23 Patterson and Pfiffner; #24 Waterman (on reserve)

B. The Institutional Presidency—the Executive Office of the President; the Vice President; Decision-Making in the White House; and Political Appointments: EOP vs. Departments and Agencies

Readings: Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Ch. 7, pp. 151-162

Pfiffner and Davidson: # 21 Brownlow Committee; #22 Heclo (on reserve)

Martin and Borrelli: Ch. 8 (Hult, on reserve)

C. Forming a Government: Political Appointees and Senate Confirmation

Readings: Jean Reith Schroedel, Sharon Spray, and Bruce D. Snyder, “Diversity and the Politicization of Presidential Appointments: A Case Study of the Achtenberg Nomination” (in Borrelli and Martin, *The Other Elites*, on reserve)

D. Paradoxes of the Presidency

Readings: Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Chapters 1,4

Pfiffner and Davidson: #15 Dahl (on reserve)

### III. The Public Presidency [Feb 26, 28]

#### A. Press, Media, and Public Approval; “Going Public;” “Going Local;” Image Management

Readings: Pfiffner and Davidson: #17 Heclo; #19 Mayer;  
#20 Edwards (on reserve)

Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Chapter 2

**All of the above material will be included in the Midterm Exam, scheduled for March 5; all of the material below will be included on the Final Exam, scheduled for May 17**

#### B. Political Humor and Satire [March 7]

### IV. The Presidency in Context: Leadership in a system of Shared Powers and Separation of Powers

#### A. Perspectives on the Presidency—Evolving Role and Expectations [March 26, 28]

Readings: *U.S. Constitution* [available at  
[www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution) ]

Janet M. Martin, “Introduction,” in *The Presidency and Women: Promise, Performance and Illusion* [on reserve]

Pfiffner and Davidson: #1 Madison; #2, #3 Hamilton; # 6 Taft; #7 Roosevelt; #8 Wilson; #9 Lincoln (on reserve)

Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Chapter 2

#### B. The Origins of Power: the Constitution, Customs, Precedents, Presidential Prerogative; an introduction to the “Unitary Executive” Theory; The Paradoxes of the Presidency [April 2, 4]

Readings: Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Chapter 5

Pfiffner and Davidson: #31 Howell, #38 Fisher (on reserve)

### **April 9, 11: Film Project Workshops**

C. The President vis a vis Congress

1.) Domestic and Budgetary Policy [April 16, 18]

Readings: Pfiffner and Davidson: #25 Davidson; #26 Binder; #29 Neustadt (on reserve)

Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Chapter 6

2.) Foreign Policy, National Security, & War [April 23]

Readings: Borrelli and Martin: Ch. 11 (Duerst-Lahti on reserve)

Pfiffner and Davidson: #34 Fisher; #35 Lindsay (on reserve)

D. The President and the Courts: Appointments and Decisions; The Solicitor General [April 25]

Readings: Pfiffner and Davidson: #27 Maltese (on reserve)

Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Chapter 8

V. The Road to the White House, with an Emphasis on Party Nominations and the Electoral College in the General Election [April 25, 30; May 2]

A. The Incumbent; the Visible “Invisible Primary”

B. The Nomination Process—The Influence of a Federal System and the role of Political Parties: Primaries, Caucuses, Platforms, Conventions; the Vice President.

Readings: Pfiffner and Davidson: #11 Campbell; #12 Brown (on reserve)

Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Chapter 3

C. The November General Election: The Electoral College

Readings: Pfiffner and Davidson: #5 Pfiffner (on reserve)

VI. Film Festival; The Future of the American Presidency; Review for final exam [week of May 7<sup>th</sup>]

Readings: Cronin, Genovese, and Bose: Chapter 9

**Course Calendar (Quick Summary of Important Dates):**

**February 5th:** Paper assignment distributed in class

**February 7th:** List of documentary topics distributed in class

**February 12<sup>th</sup>:** **Discussion of Film Project** -- [*Demonstration of sample movie project and discussion of expectations for finished project*]. Sign up for a topic begins February 14<sup>th</sup>; work will be done in pairs; Final projects will be due May 7<sup>th</sup>; ATC (IT's Academic Technology and Consulting) workshops will be available. Specific steps of project will be due as listed below or announced in class in order for all to successfully complete project and show the class and invited guests finished project in a Film Festival on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. ( *Attendance is mandatory at film festival*).

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Sign-up sheets for paper topic and film topic will be posted

**February 21st:** **Library Workshop** [(Research Paper; film project) -- Meet in ECR in Library]

**March 2nd, 5 p.m.:** DRAFT SCRIPTS DUE NO LATER THAN 5 PM ON MARCH 2ND IN ORDER TO GET PRELIMINARY APPROVAL BY PROFESSOR MARTIN

**Midterm Exam : March 5th** [essay; blue books ; based on assigned readings, lectures, course materials, discussion and extra readings (e.g., from the *New York Times*); **Exam covers Sections I, II, and III A. on the syllabus,**]

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup>, and March 28<sup>th</sup>:** Groups can meet for 15-20 minutes each day. Be prepared to use the time wisely, and coordinate your group's activities; IF YOU NEED IMAGES SCANNED PLEASE BEGIN THE PROCESS ASAP; CONSULT WITH IT AS NEEDED!!]

**March 26<sup>th</sup>:** short overview of image resources with Librarian Barbra Levergood

**MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m.:** FINAL SCRIPTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL BY PROFESSOR MARTIN [please note that revisions will be expected up until the final film is turned in; images may replace wording in a narrative; newly discovered material may require a modification in your script, and so forth]; appointments can be scheduled March 29-31 to review suggested edits

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 30 minute session on Recording of scripts/narrative for film with Kevin Travers, ATC

**April 5th:** Research paper due (no later than 5 p.m.)

**By April 8<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m., AUDIO RECORDINGS MUST BE UPLOADED FOR CRITIQUE**

**April 9th:** Critique of Recorded Script/Narrative (in-class)

**April 11<sup>th</sup>:** Final audio recording, in response to critiques, due today for use in Workshop.  
**Introduction to I-Movie** with Kevin Travers, during class [Location to be announced]

**MONDAY, April 30<sup>th</sup>: 7 – 8 P.M.: HELP SESSION;** KEVIN TRAVERS AND PROFESSOR MARTIN WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ASSISTANCE [location to be announced]

**May 1st – May 4th:** Each pair should schedule in advance an appointment with Professor Martin during the week of May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>, to view their movie-in-progress. The purpose of the viewing is to review the status of each film, review the quality of the film, and ensure each project's completion on schedule.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>:** Upload Final Film by 2 p.m.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** PREVIEW AND CRITIQUE OF FILMS *DURING CLASS*;

**FILM FESTIVAL** (7:30-9:30 p.m., Shannon Room)

Both activities are mandatory [absence from either will affect both your grade on the film project, as well as your class participation grade]

**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** Review of material for final exam

**FINAL EXAM AS SCHEDULED [May 17, 9 a.m.]**