

The American Presidency and Executive Branch
Fall 2023

Course Evaluation:

Midterm Exams (30%):

We will have two midterm exams (worth 15 percent each) this semester taken during course hours. Midterms are open-book/open note and conducted through canvas.

Makeups for the midterm exam are only granted for a valid excuse (e.g. illness, a death in the family, or a religious holiday.)

Final Exam (20%):

Monday, December 18, 4:30-7:00pm

Honor Code:

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty.

Artificial Intelligence language models, including ChatGPT, cannot be used for any course assignments. Using artificial intelligence language models to complete assignments, even if only for part of an assignment, is considered plagiarism and will result in a zero for the assignment.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: honor@colorado.edu, 303-492-5550. Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit Honor Code for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Grade Distribution:

Midterm Exam 1 15%, open note, open book
Thursday, October 5 during class

Midterm Exam 2 15%, open note, open book
Thursday, November 9 during class

Final Exam 20%, open note, open book, and cumulative (though focus is on post-Midterms content)
Monday,

78-79: C+
73-77: C
70-72: C-
60-69: D

Please note that we cannot discuss your course grade via email. If you have questions about your grade, please come to my office hours.

Communication:

It is important to be proactive about contacting your instructor if you have any questions or are experiencing any issues. I will use email as the primary means of communication. Be sure to respond within 48 hours, please resend your message. If you have a legitimate excuse and need an accommodation for class assignments or exams, you must inform me in advance. Unless an alternative arrangement has been made in advance, late assignments will not be accepted.

Remember if you miss class or an assignment deadline due to illness, family/personal emergency, or religious observance to please let me know as soon as possible (within 1 week) if not ahead of time.

Classroom Behavior:

Please arrive at course lectures on time to ensure minimal disruptions. We will be using canvas for this course during almost every lecture. This will require that students always bring a laptop. However, keep in mind that laptops can be distracting; therefore, refrain from web-surfing. Please put cell phones away and on silent except for emergencies.

Please remember to be respectful to your instructor and your fellow students while in recitation.

opinions. During these times, focus your criticisms on the substance of these ideas/statements, not the person speaking. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will result in a 0 any activities on that day. The course instructor reserves the right to ask excessively disruptive students to leave the classroom.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Course Introduction and Background

8/29: Syllabus Overview

No quiz week 1

8/31: Origins of the Presidency

Readings: Syllabus; Federalist Papers #47, #70

Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige. Appendix C

Week 2: Early Presidents

9/05: Jeffersonianism

9/07: Jacksonism

Readings: Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

Week 3: Civil War and Reconstruction

9/12: The Lincoln Presidency

9/14: Early 20th Century Progressivism

Readings: Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 6 and Chapter 8

Week 4: The Modern Presidency

9/19: Consolidation of the Modern Presidency

9/21: Presidential Power and Modern Presidents

Readings: Milkis and Nelson, Chapters 10

Neustadt, Richard. 1964. Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents, Ch. 1-3.

Week 5: Presidential Power

9/26: Personalization of the Presidency

9/28: A Restoration of Presidential Power?

Pick your president for analytical paper and discussion posts for rest of the semester

Readings: Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 11 and Chapter 12

Week 6: Midterm 1:

10/03: Review

No quiz, just participation activity

10/05: Midterm 1

Week 7: The Executive Branch

10/10: EOC and Vice President

10/12: Control of Bureaucracy

Readings: Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige, Chapter 6

Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 15

Week 8: The President and Congress

10/17: The President and Congress Relationship

10/19: Congressional Gridlock

Readings: Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige, Chapter 5

McCubbins, Mathew D., and Thomas Schwartz.

Week 9: The Judiciary, Public Opinion

10/24: The Judiciary

10/26: Public Opinion

Readings: Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige, Chapter 3 and Chapter 7

Week 10: Presidential Elections

10/31: Historical Background

11/2: Modern Campaigns

Readings: Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige. Chapter 2, Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 15

Week 11: Midterm 2

11/7: Review

No quiz this week, just participation activity

11/9: Midterm 2

Week 12: Domestic Policy

11/14: Domestic Policy

11/16: Economic Policy

Readings: Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9

Journal of Political Science.

November 20-November 24: Fall Break

Week 13: Foreign Policy

11/28: Foreign Policy

11/30: The War on Terror

Readings: Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige, Chapter 10

Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 13

Analytical Paper Due 12/1 at 11:59pm

Week 14: Scandal, The Perils of Presidentialism

12/5: Scandal

12/7: The Perils of Presidentialism

Readings: Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige, Chapter 4

Week 15: Transfer of Power

12/12: Presidential Impeachment

12/14: Trump, Biden, and Transfer of Power

Readings: Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige, Chapter 11

Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 14

Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt. 2018. How Democracies Die. Chs. 6 7.

Final Exam: Monday, December 18, 4:30-7:00pm

All aspects of this syllabus are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

UNIVERSITY REQUIRED SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS