

**Political Science 4036**  
**The American Presidency**  
**Fall 2011**

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy  
Office: 221 Stubbs Hall  
Hours: M-S: 1:00-4:00  
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**Note: The use of laptops and cell phones is prohibited during class.**

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to provide an overview of various theories on the institution of the American Presidency. It is principally focused on the triune relationship between Domestic Affairs, Foreign Affairs and the Election Process that all successful Presidents must balance carefully. However, this course does not provide a historical survey of the presidents from Washington to Obama; it emphasizes the Office of the President as an institution.

**Course Texts**

The Presidential Difference – Greenstein, Fred  
George Washington – James MacGregor Burns & Susan Dunn  
Abraham Lincoln – George S. McGovern  
Franklin Delano Roosevelt – Roy Jenkins

**Grading**

**A: 600-540    B: 539-480    C: 479-420    D: 419-360    F: 359-000**

- **Three non-cumulative exams – 100 pts each**
  - Exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and in class videos.
- **Three assigned reading book test (Washington, Lincoln, FDR). – 50 pts each**
- **A twelve-page (12) paper evaluating the leadership styles of the three presidents (Washington, Lincoln, FDR) covered in the assigned readings. It is essential that page numbers be used rigorously for both direct quotations and specialized information. NO outside sources. -150 pts**

**Class Attendance**

- Class participation is expected & required. As attendance is the *sine qua non* of participation, more than two absences will result in a letter-grade reduction of your final course grade.
- Be a good citizen about arriving on time and staying for the entire class.
- Arriving late and /or leaving class early is only allowed in the case of a dire emergency and only after consultation and approval from the instructor.

### Graduate Students / Law Students

If you are a graduate students or Law school student – please see me @ 221 Stubbs Hall within the first 2 weeks of the semester.

### Course Outline

#### Part I – The Office of the President

- Tuesday, Aug. 23 – Introduction; discussion of syllabus  
*Thirteen Days* movie
- Thursday, Aug. 25 - *Thirteen Days* movie continued
- Tuesday, Aug. 30 - *Thirteen Days* movie continued  
Evolution of the Presidency
- Thursday, Sept. 1 - Evolution of the Presidency I.
- Tuesday, Sept. 6 - Evolution of the Presidency II.
- Thursday, Sept. 8 - Presidential Character & Greatness
- Tuesday, Sept. 13 - President's Constitutional "Hats"  
The President & Congress
- Thursday, Sept. 15 – Exam 1: Greenstein: FDR, Reagan, H.W. Bush  
Lectures & *Thirteen Days* movie

#### Part II – Being President

- Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Organization of the Federal Government
- Thursday, Sept. 22 - The Federal Budget  
Book Test 1: Washington
- Tuesday, Sept. 27 - Foreign & Defense Policy
- Thursday, Sept. 29 - National Security Advisory Process  
Presidency in the Cold War world
- Tuesday, Oct. 4 - Presidency in the Cold War world continued
- Thursday, Oct. 6 - *The Fog of War* movie
- Tuesday, Oct. 11 - *The Fog of War* movie continued

- Thursday, Oct. 13 - FALL BREAK !!!
- Tuesday, Oct. 18 - Presidency in the Post-Cold War world  
Presidency in the Post-9/11 world
- Thursday, Oct. 20 - Presidency in the Post-9/11 world continued  
Reflections on Current World Order
- Tuesday, Oct. 25 - Reflections on Current World Order continued  
Book Test 2: Lincoln
- Thursday, Oct. 27 - Exam 2: Greenstein: Truman, JFK, LBJ, Nixon

**Part III – Becoming the President of the United States**

- Tuesday, Nov. 1 - Nomination Process I.
- Thursday, Nov. 3 - Nomination Process continued II.
- Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Convention
- Thursday, Nov. 10 - Electoral College I.
- Tuesday, Nov. 15 - Electoral College II.
- Thursday, Nov. 17 - Electoral College III.  
2000 Election (Bush v. Gore)
- Tuesday, Nov. 22 - Book Test 3: FDR  
2008 Democratic Selection Process
- THANKSGIVING BREAK – Wednesday, Nov. 23 – Monday, Nov. 28**
- Tuesday, Nov. 29 - Paper Due  
The Campaign I.
- Thursday, Dec. 1 - The Campaign II.
- FINALS WEEK – Monday, Dec. 5 – Saturday, Dec. 10**