

The tendency has long been to compartmentalize the study of government institutions on the side of order, system, and routine in politics, to identify them with “politics-as-usual” and look outside of them for the “real” forces of change. But the presidency has never fit this frame very well.... Array the stories of the presidents in succession—each in turn endowed with broad constitutional powers and determined to exercise them in his own right—and the blunt disruptive force of this institution instantly comes to the fore. Together these stories tell of an office that regularly reaches beyond itself to assert control over others, one whose deep-seated impulse to *reorder* things routinely jolts order and routine elsewhere, one whose normal activities and operations alter system boundaries and recast political possibilities.

—Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make* (1993)

Political Science 4036
The American Presidency
Fall 2018

Instructor: James Stoner <poston@lsu.edu>
Stubbs 214 (tel: 225-578-2538)

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-2:30 pm;
Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 am; and by appointment

Course requirements:

- Regular attendance for the entire class period [deductions for unexcused absence]
- Daily quizzes on the reading [20%]
- Midterm examination, on October 3 [20%]
- 1500/2000-word paper on a president’s speeches and deeds: topic due August 27; research by the appropriate class; papers due Friday of the following week [30%]
- Final examination, Tuesday, December 4, 5:30-7:30 pm [30%]

Graduate Students and Honors Option:

- 1000-word papers on (1) Harvey Mansfield, *Taming the Prince* (Free Press) [ISBN 9780029199800] AND (2) Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make* (Harvard) [ISBN 9780674689374] due, in either order, on October 12 and November 30 [due dates negotiable; combined worth equals term paper, percentages adjusted]

Grading scale:

A+ (98%-100%), A (93%-97%), A- (90%-92%)
B+ (88%-90%), B (83%-87%), B- (80%-82%)
C+ (78%-80%), C (73%-77%), C- (70%-72%)
D+ (68%-70%), D (63%-67%), D- (60%-62%)
F (below 60%)

Books available for purchase:

- Sidney M. Milkis & Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2014*, 7th ed. (Sage/CQ Press, 2016) [ISBN 9781483318691]
- Conrad Black, *Donald Trump: A President Like No Other* (Regnery, 2018) [ISBN 9781621577874]
- Bob Woodward, *Fear: Trump in the White House* (Simon & Schuster, 2018) [ISBN 9781501175510] (to be published 9-11-18)

Course Website:

A course website will be available to registered students through the Moodle system.

Library Reserve:

Although most of the readings for the course will be in the textbook and the two new books on President Trump, with the others available through Moodle, several books on the presidency will be placed on reserve in Middleton library for you to consult if you wish.

SYLLABUS:

- Mon., 8/20 Introduction: Monarchs and Republicans
The Constitution, Art. 1, sect. 3, cl. 4-7; sect. 7; Art. II
- Wed., 8/22 Conrad Black, *Donald Trump*, ch. 10-12

I. THE ORIGINAL PRESIDENCY

- Mon., 8/27 Designing the Presidency
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 1-2 (pp. 1-40)
SOURCES: An Old Whig, #5; Cato, #4; *The Federalist*, ##67-70
- Wed., 8/29 Empowering the President
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 2 (pp. 40-71)
SOURCES: *The Federalist*, ##71-77
- Wed., 9/5 Washington Establishes the Presidency
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 3 (pp. 72-103)
- Mon., 9/10 Jefferson Modifies the Presidency
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 4 (pp. 104-130)
- Wed., 9/12 Federalists versus Republicans
SOURCES: Washington, First Inaugural; Madison, on Removal Power; Pacificus-Helvidius Letters; Washington, Farewell Address; Jefferson, First Inaugural; Jefferson, Misc. Letters; Monroe Doctrine

II. THE ELASTIC PRESIDENCY

- Mon., 9/17 Jacksonian Populism
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 5 (pp. 131-164)
 SOURCES: Jackson, First Message to Congress; Jackson, Veto Message on the Bank; Clay, Speech on Bank Veto; Jackson, Proclamation on Nullification
- Wed., 9/19 Lincoln's Authority
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 6 (pp. 165-188)
 SOURCES: Lincoln, First Inaugural Address; July 4, 1861, Message to Congress; Emancipation Proclamation; Gettysburg Address; Second Inaugural Address
- Mon., 9/24 The Presidency in Retreat
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 7 (pp. 188-226)
 SOURCES: *Ex parte Milligan*; Pendleton Act; James Bryce, "Why Great Men Are Not Chosen President"

III. INTERLUDE: UNDERSTANDING THE PRESIDENCY

- Wed., 9/26 Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*, ch. 1-3 (pp. 3-49)
- Mon., 10/1 Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr., "The Ambivalence of Executive Power," in Bessette & Tulis, eds., *The Presidency in the Constitutional Order*, pp. 314-333
 Stephen Skowronek, "Notes on the Presidency in the Political Order," in *Studies in American Political Development* 1: 286-302
- Wed., 10/3 **MIDTERM EXAM**

IV. THE MODERN PRESIDENCY

- Mon., 10/8 The Progressive Republicans
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 8 (pp. 227-250)
 SOURCES: TR and Taft, Speeches & Writings on Presidential Power
- Wed., 10/10 The Progressive Democrat
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 8 (pp. 250-276)
 SOURCES: Wilson, *Constitutional Government* (excerpt); Official Bulletins of Creel Committee

- Mon., 10/15 Normalcy Republicans
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 9 (pp. 277-300)
SOURCES: Bureau of the Budget; *Myers v. US*
- Wed., 10/17 Franklin Roosevelt as the Model Modern President
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 10 (pp. 301-322)
SOURCES: FDR, First Inaugural; *Humphrey's Executor v. US*;
FDR, Court-packing Speech; Brownlow Committee; *US v. Curtiss-Wright*
- Mon., 10/22 The President as World Leader
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 10 (pp. 322-349)
SOURCES: Truman Doctrine; *Youngstown Sheet & Tube v. Sawyer*;
Eisenhower, Little Rock Address
- Wed., 10/24 Personalizing the Modern Presidency
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 11 (pp. 350-369)
SOURCES: Kennedy, Inaugural; LBJ, Speeches
- Mon., 10/29 The Presidency in Crisis
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 11 (pp. 369-395)
SOURCE: *US v. Nixon*
- Wed., 10/31 Reviving the Presidency: the Reagan Revolution
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 12 (pp. 396-429)
SOURCES: Reagan, First Inaugural; *Morrison v. Olsen*
- Mon., 11/5 Rescuing Liberalism?
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 13 (pp. 430-455)
SOURCES: *Clinton v. Jones*, *Clinton v. City of New York*
- Wed., 11/7 The Twenty-first Century Presidency: Bush
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 14 (pp. 456-480)
SOURCES: *Bush v. Gore*; Bush, signing statement; *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*
- Mon., 11/12 The Twenty-first Century Presidency: Obama
Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 15 (pp. 481-506)
SOURCES: Obama, Speeches; *NLRB v. Noel Canning*

V. THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY

- Wed., 11/14 Inside the Trump Presidency
Woodward, *Fear: Trump in the White House*
- Mon., 11/19 Inside the Trump Presidency
Woodward, *Fear: Trump in the White House*

[THANKSGIVING BREAK]

Mon, 11/26 Understanding Trump?
 Conrad Black, *Donald Trump*, ch. 1-9

Wed, 11/28 Coda: The Vice Presidency
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 16 (pp. 507-537)
 SOURCES: Mondale memorandum

FINAL EXAMINATION (Tuesday, December 4, 5:30-7:30 pm)