

Political Science 501
The American Presidency
Course # 17430-8
Autumn 2006
Mr. Charles Smith



People identify with a President in a way they do with no other public figure. Potential presidents are measured against an ideal that's a combination of leading man, God, father, hero, pope, king, with maybe just a touch of the avenging Furies thrown in. They want him to be larger than life, a living legend, and yet quintessentially human; someone to be held up to their children as a model; someone to be cherished by themselves as a revered member of the family, in somewhat the same way in which peasant families pray to the icon in the corner. Reverence goes where power is.

--Memo to Richard Nixon from Ray Price, cited in Michael Novak, *Choosing Our King* (1974), 44.

I. Introduction

This course is a general survey of the American presidency. Upon completion of this course, students will have a better understanding of the office and of the many forces that have, throughout history, served to mold the modern presidency. We will examine the origins of the office (going back to the constitutional convention and the debates surrounding the creation of the federal executive), how the office has developed over time, paying particular attention to the statutory and constitutional constraints that limit the chief executive, and how the media affect (and in turn are affected by) the presidency. Finally, we will consider the individuals who, through their (in)actions, have shaped the American presidency.

II. Contact and Meeting Information

Instructor: Charles Smith 2140B Derby Hall
Phone: 614-292-1484 (office)
E-mail: smith.3280@osu.edu (**subject: 501**)

Office Hours: Mon./Wed./Fri. 10:00 to 11:00 and by appointment

III. Required Texts (2):

- Joseph Pika, and John Anthony Maltese. 2004. *The Politics of the Presidency*, 6th ed. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press. ISBN 1-933116-04-8
- George C. Edwards. 2007. *Governing by Campaigning: The politics of the Bush presidency*. New York: Pearson Longman. ISBN 0-321-43767-5

Supplemental Readings (2):

- Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson. 2003. *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776 – 2002*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. Chapter 16, “The Vice Presidency” (pp. 424 – 449).
- “Special Report: Presidents at War.” *U.S. News & World Report*, Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, 2006 (pp. 40 to 75, excl).

NOTE: Supplemental readings will be sent as pdf files via email. Please make sure that your instructor has your current email address and that your inbox can accommodate large files.

Required Videos (4):

The following videos will be shown in class; they are also available in VHS format at closed reserve, where ever that is.

Making the Message: The Fight for the Presidency

The Unraveling of a Candidate

The War Room

Journeys with George



IV. Course Requirements and Grading

Formal Course Requirements

Exam 1 25%

Exam 1 will be an objective exam held in class on Wednesday, Oct. 25

Exam 2 25%

Exam 2 will be a take-home essay due in class on Monday, Oct. 30

Exam 3 25%

Exam 3 will be an objective exam held in class on Wednesday, Nov. 29

Exam 4 25%

Exam 4 will be a take-home essay due by 12 noon on Monday, December 4

- **Please refrain from wearing hats during exams.**
- **In-class exams begin at 1:30; students that are late to the exam will not be allowed to begin after the first exam is turned in. In this instance, a make-up exam will be scheduled by the instructor.**

Marks (Rule 3335-7-21)

A, A- The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an excellent manner. The student's performance was judged to be **in this range** of high quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor's personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor's experience and expertise.

B+, B, B- The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an above-average manner. The student's performance was judged to be **in this range** of above-average quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor's personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor's experience and expertise.

C+, C, C- The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an average manner. The student's performance was judged to be **in this range** of average quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor's personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor's experience and expertise.

D+, D The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in a low but acceptable manner. The student's performance was judged to be **in this range** of below average but acceptable quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor's personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor's experience and expertise.

E The instructor judged the student not to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course. Credit for a course in which the mark of "E" has been received can be obtained only by repeating and passing the course in class. (See rules 3335-7-23 to 3335-7-28 of the Administrative Code.)

Instructor's Grading Scale for Exams

A 94% and above	B- 80 – 83%	D 65 – 69%
A- 90 - 93%	C+ 77 – 79%	D- 60 – 64%
B+ 87 - 89%	C 74 – 76%	E 59% and below
B 84 - 86%	C- 70 – 73%	

Policy on missed exams

Exceptions in emergency situations are inevitable but, in general, students missing an exam will receive a grade of zero. If you must miss an exam (such as in cases of illness or family/personal emergencies), please contact the instructor **as soon as possible PRIOR** to the scheduled test time; you **MUST** contact the instructor upon your return to find out the date, time, and location of the makeup exam. **Makeup exams MUST be completed within FIVE days (including weekends) of the regularly scheduled examination. Appropriate documentation must be provided. Makeup exams are given at the discretion of the instructor.**

Policy on attendance

It is expected that students will attend each class session. Attendance will be taken daily during the first two weeks of the quarter. **Following university Rule 3335-7-33, students will be disenrolled from the course if they are absent the first week of classes and do not notify the instructor of their intention to remain enrolled.**

Policy on participation

While grades will not be assigned specifically for participation, it is hoped that students will make an effort to provide informed contributions to class discussions.

Policy on cellular telephones

Cell phones will be turned off, unless you have an emergency you need to track, in which case vibrate (and leaving the room to pick up the call) is appropriate.

V. Academic Integrity

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. *Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated.* The Committee on Academic Misconduct investigates or establishes procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. "Academic misconduct" includes cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

For established procedures, visit Academic Affairs at

<http://www.osu.edu/offices/oa/procedures/1.0.html>

For tips on avoiding plagiarism, see <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html> or

http://cstw.osu.edu/writingCenter/handouts/research_plagiarism.cfm

VI. Students with Disabilities

If you have any condition, such as a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined in this syllabus, or will require extra time for exams, please notify the instructor as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. **You must also contact the university's Office of Disability Services to receive appropriate documentation. All information and documentation of**

disability are confidential. For further information, contact ODS, 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone, 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>

VII. Course Schedule – All dates are tentative; the schedule may be modified as needed by the instructor. Please be mindful of exam dates. *Class time affords a perfect opportunity to ask questions and you are encouraged to take advantage of it. The instructor is also available for assistance during office hours and at any other mutually agreeable time.*

Part I – Creating the American Presidency

Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Introduction; “Making the American Presidency”

Monday, Sept. 25 – P&M Chapter 1, “the Changing Presidency”

Part II – Choosing our King

Wednesday, Sept. 27 – P&M Chapter 2, “Election Politics”; Edwards, Chapt. 1

Monday, Oct. 2 – video: *Making the Message: The Fight for the Presidency*

Wednesday, Oct. 4 – **video: *The Unraveling of a Candidate*; discussion to follow**

Monday, Oct. 9 – video: *The War Room*

Wednesday, Oct. 11 – video: *Journeys with George*

Part IIA – From partisan politics to national politics: The Vice President

Monday, Oct. 16 – Milkis and Nelson, “The Vice Presidency”

Part III – Theater of the absurd: Presidents, the public, and public opinion

Wednesday, Oct. 18 – P&M Chapter 3, “Public Politics”; Edwards, Chaps. 2 & 3

Monday, Oct. 23 – P&M Chapter 4, “Presidential Character and Performance”; Edwards Chapt. 4

Wednesday, Oct. 25 – Exam 1 (in class objective)

Monday, Oct. 30 – Exam 2 (take home) due at start of class
– Presidents and Congress in historical perspective (no reading)

Part IV – “...separate branches sharing power”

Monday, Oct. 30 – The president and Congress -- P&M Chapter 5; Edwards Chapt. 5

Wednesday, Nov. 1 – to “faithfully execute...” – the Executive Branch -- P&M Chapter 6

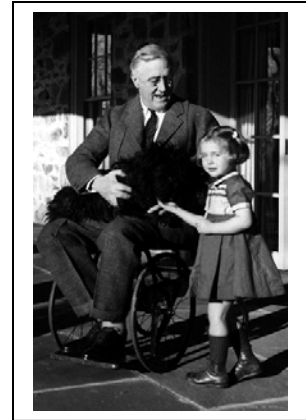
Monday, Nov. 6 – The president and the judiciary -- P&M Chapter 7

Wednesday, Nov. 8 – Making domestic policy -- P&M Chapter 8

Monday, Nov. 13 – Economic policy -- P&M Chapter 9; Edwards Chaps. 6 & 7

Part V – The power of the sword

- Wednesday, Nov. 15 – P&M Chapter 10, “National Security Policy,”
- Monday, Nov. 20 – “Special Report: Presidents at War.” *U.S. News & World Report*
- Wednesday, Nov. 22 – P&M Chapter 11, “George W. Bush: The Challenges of a Wartime President”; Edwards Chapt. 8
- Monday, Nov. 27 – TBA
- Wednesday, Nov. 29 – **Exam 3 (objective)**
- Monday, Dec. 4 – **Exam 4 due by 12 Noon.**



Course-related Internet sites

**American Museum of the Moving Image – Living Room Candidate
Presidential campaign ads 1952-2000
<http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php>**

University of Oklahoma College of Law – historical documents -- <http://www.law.ou.edu/hist>

Constitution Society – historical documents -- <http://www.constitution.org>

White House homepage -- <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

Presidential biography -- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/>

Internet Public Library – POTUS project -- <http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/>

Life Portraits of American Presidents -- <http://www.americanpresidents.org/>

Presidential Inaugural Addresses -- <http://www.bartleby.com/124/>

Presidents of the United States -- <http://www.presidentsusa.net/>

Vice Presidents -- <http://www.vicepresidents.com/>

Center for Responsive Politics -- <http://www.opensecrets.org/index.asp>

Center for Voting and Democracy -- <http://www.fairvote.org/index.php>

Democracy in Action, P2004, Race for the Presidency -- <http://www.gwu.edu/~action/P2004.html>

Democratic National Committee -- <http://democrats.org/index.html>

Propaganda Critic -- <http://www.propagandacritic.com/>

Republican National Committee – <http://www.gop.com>

Factcheck.org -- <http://www.factcheck.org/>

a Website set up by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania to assess the veracity of claims made in political advertising

Project Vote Smart -- <http://www.vote-smart.org/>

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting -- <http://www.fair.org/index.php>

Federal Election Commission -- <http://www.fec.gov/>



Statement of Student Responsibility*
Political Science 501
Autumn, 2006

I state that I have read and understand the requirements as outlined in the syllabus for this course. I understand that upper division college courses are taught at a pace that requires considerable work and I am prepared to complete the assignments as required and take responsibility should I fail to comply with the guidelines for the course. I agree to abide by the Code of Student Conduct and understand that failure to do so will result in university academic misconduct proceedings.

I understand that if I need assistance with materials throughout the term the instructor is available to guide me, but that ultimately I am responsible for my own work and for notifying the instructor if I do have problems.

Signature

Date

Print Name: _____ Hometown: _____

Year in School: _____ Major/Minor: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Prior Political Science Courses: _____

Prior Political Experience: _____

Reason for Taking Course: _____

Course Expectations: _____

Special Considerations (i.e., disability, graduating senior): _____

Interesting Tidbit About Myself: _____

* Due in class on Monday, Sept. 25.