

**Poli 501. 17231-2. THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY  
Winter 2007**

Dr. Shull ([email=shull.43@edu](mailto:email=shull.43@edu))  
Office: 2105 Derby (phone-292-4291)  
Classroom: Scott Lab 054

Class Time: 2:30-4:18pm MW  
Office Hours: 1:00-2:20 p.m. MW

**OVERVIEW**

This course provides a broad overview of the American presidency. The major goal is to help students understand the interaction between the individual (president) and the institution (presidency). The primary topics will include the development of the office, the presidential selection process, the president and his constituents, relations with other institutions, and the impact of the presidency in the policy making process. Current events will be covered where appropriate. I use lectures and power point slides and, because we have a large class, I ask students to turn off all electronic devices.

Another important focus is problems and prospects in analyzing the presidency. In this context, we consider several theories about individuals and institutions, including power, political time, greatness, and character, among others. The course will cover the presidency throughout history but give particular attention to the George W. Bush administration, partly because the two required books cover Bush extensively. Thus, I expect the paper to compare and contrast Bush II's handling of a policy or event with any other president using one theory of the presidency. For example, "How the two Bushes' conducted of a minor (not Iraq) military crisis and did it reflect an active-positive character?" However, students should choose their own topics for the paper and get the topic approved ahead of time.

Grades based on two essay exams (35% midterm, 40% final) and a brief paper (25%).

**REQUIRED BOOKS**

Pika & Maltese, *Politics of the Presidency*, 6th. Rev. ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press. 2006. ISBN 1-933116-04-8  
Jacobson, *A Divider, Not A Uniter*. 2007. New York: Longman. ISBN 0-321-41699-6

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Paper Topic	1/24
Mid-Term Exam	1/31
One Page Outline	2/12
Paper Due	2/21
Final Exam	March 14, 1:30-3:18 p.m.—Note Time Change!!

Week #	Dates	# Days	Topics/Readings
1	1/3	1-W	<b>Introduction to Course: Nature of Office</b> , Pika & Maltese, Chapter 1; Jacobson, Chapter 1
2	1/8, 10	2-M,W	<b>Constitutional Foundations Vice President/ Transitions</b>
3	1/15	1-M	<b>Martin Luther King Holiday—<u>NO CLASS</u></b>
3	1/17	1-W	<b>Theories of the Presidency:</b> Pika & Maltese Chapter 4
4	1/22, 24	2-M, W	<b>Presidential Selection:</b> Pika & Maltese Chap 2; Jacobson, chs. 3, 7— <b>Paper Topic Due</b>
5	1/29	1, M	<b>Public Opinion/Media:</b> Pika & Maltese, ch. 3; Jacobson, Appendix
6	2/5	1-M	<b>Political Parties;</b> Pika and Maltese, chap. 2
6	2/7	1-W	<b>Executive Actors:</b> Pika and Maltese, chap. 6
7	2/12	1-M	<b>Executive and Judicial Actors—1 Pg outline due—minus 5 points if not turned in at class</b>
7	2/14	1-W	<b>Legislative Actors:</b> Pika & Maltese Chap. 5; Jacobson, Chapter 2
8	2/19	1-M	<b>Legislative Actors:</b> Pika & Maltese Chap. 5; Jacobson, Chapter 4
8	2/21	1-W	<b>Domestic and Economic Policy:</b> Pika & Maltese, Chaps 8-9; Jacobson, Ch. 8— <b>Paper Due</b>
9	2/26	1-M	<b>Domestic and Economic Policy:</b> Pika & Maltese, Chaps 8-9; Jacobson, ch. 9
9	2/28	1-W	<b>Military and Foreign Policy:</b> Pika & Maltese, Chap. 10; Jacobson, Chapter 6
10	3/5, 7	2-M, W	<b>Foreign Policy/Review for Final:</b> Pika & Maltese, Chapter 11
11	3/14	1-W	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> , 1:30-3:18 pm.

### RESEARCH PAPER

Students will be required to submit a brief paper on a topic of the student's choice (in consultation with me by 1/24 and with a one page outline/summary with four good sources by 2/12). Five points will be deducted if this outline is late because I want you to get started on the paper early. Papers must be comparative, analytical, and evaluative rather than simply descriptive narration. Irrespective of the topic selected, the paper assignment will necessitate additional reading. Papers are to be analytical rather than descriptive. They need a brief conclusion where you go beyond the readings to make assessments and draw implications. All papers must be documented with at least eight sources, particularly scholarly ones (journal articles, not encyclopedias). All papers must be typed and should be between 7-9 pages double spaced in length with one inch margins all around with .12 Times-New Roman font. Use

Turabian, Elements of Style for when and how to document and Cronin, Write Stuff, APSA Style Sheet, or A Pocket Style Manual on writing style. Paper due 2/21---hard copy, no attachments—with grade lowered by ten points for each day that it is late.

Don't over-summarize and regurgitate what others say. Keep another's basic ideas but put them in your own words. Paraphrase when you can; over quoting is lazy and does not show me that you can integrate the ideas of others with your own thoughts. Cite works whose ideas you incorporated even if the wording is your own, using specific page numbers whenever possible. Only one direct quote per paper!! Tie ideas and sources together so that you do not simply discuss works individually but show how authors build upon one another. Ideally, you will incorporate multiple sources on a particular idea/concept, not just a single author for each. Careful documentation is important. You may use either scientific notation (e.g. Shull 1989, 27) or traditional footnotes at bottom or end. If you are overwhelmed with evidence, the topic probably is too broad, so see me about a more concentrated focus. You should exhaust the literature on a subject to have a good topic and subsequent paper. Biographies and popular magazines should be kept to a bare minimum. Even CQ Weekly Reports and National Journal are good but insufficient. Scholarly books can be checked in Books in Print first, and if it is not in the Library, it can usually be obtained quickly from interlibrary loan. The Political Science reference librarian David Lincolve is very helpful and several journals are available on JSTOR and EBSCO.

**Attendance:** I do not have an attendance policy in my 500 level courses. However, I can virtually guarantee that you will not do well on the midterm and final exams if you do not attend class. I make every effort to make certain that the essay examinations include information from both class and reading materials.

**Grading Scale:** Grades are based on the OSU +/- scale (93-100=A, 90-92=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-76=C, 72-70=C-, 67-69=D+, 60-66=D, below 60=E). I may need to curve grades upwards but will not curve them downwards below the university scale to the detriment of any student.

**Academic Honesty :** All of the work done in this course by each student must be his or her own. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct.

**Disability:** If you require an accommodation because of a disability please contact the Office for Disability Services [150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue, 292-3307].

COURSE OUTLINE [also see my large bibliography on course web site]

**I. NATURE OF THE PERSONAL PRESIDENCY**

A. Development of the Presidential Office

1. Evolution of the Office
2. Transition: Succession, Tenure, Disability
3. Vice President
4. Constitutional Foundations

B. Analyzing the Presidency

1. Problems and Prospects
2. Data Generation and Analysis
3. Useful Concepts: Greatness, Personality, Power

C. Presidential Selection/Political Leadership

1. Primaries/Conventions
2. Elections
3. Campaign Finance/Reform
4. Party Leadership

**II. PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUENCIES: PLURAL PRESIDENCY (ACTORS)**

A. Non Government Actors

1. Public Opinion
2. Media
3. Interest Groups
4. Political Parties

B. Executive Actors

1. Staff
2. Cabinet
3. Bureaucracy

C. Judicial Actors

D. Legislative Actors

**III. PRESIDENTIAL POLICIES**

A. Domestic

B. Economic

C. Foreign/Military

**IV. REFORMING THE PRESIDENCY: SINGULAR VS. PLURAL PRESIDENCY**