POLITICAL SCIENCE 3413:
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

Fall 2015

Professor: Dr. Drew N. Lanier	**Office Hours**: TR, 09:30-11:00 W, 2:00-3:00 *or by appointment*
Office: Phillips Hall 302O	**Class Time and Place:** MWF 12:30-1:20 (PSY 106)
Phone: (407) 823-3753 [direct dial] or -2608 [main office]	**Credit Hours**: Three (3)
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Course Description

This course is a study of the United States Presidency as it has developed over time and as it exists today. Components of the course include: presidential relations with Congress, the media, public opinion, the bureaucracy, and the judiciary. We will also explore the conduct of presidential nominations, campaigns and elections, as well as recent conflicts over the role and powers of the president in current American politics. Students will be introduced to the various theories about the presidency and its relation to the other elements of the United States system of governance.

Course Goals

The most fundamental goal of this course is to enhance and improve your critical thinking skills. The ability to critically analyze concepts or programs and then present your conclusions and criticisms well will be one of the most valuable skills you learn at the University. The subject matter on which you will practice these critical skills will be the American Presidency. In order to effectively develop your analytic abilities, you will find that you need a great deal of specific knowledge about the president's Constitutional duties and responsibilities, and his/her relation to other actors within his/her legal and political environment. This course will fill that gap.

Web Resources

Canvas Site – Course Management Software

The Course has a Canvas site associated with it. It is an innovative technology that allows the students to interact with each other, post messages to a common bulletin board, take quizzes, and many other tasks that facilitate comprehension of the course material and collaborative learning among the course's students in a student-centered context. This site, however, is a password-protected domain. A more thorough discussion of this course tool as well as how to navigate through it will be offered in class. Navigate to it via your my.ucf.edu login, find the course in the Online Course Tools Tab and the Webcourses@UCF Pagelet and then enter your PID and password.

Required Books

There are two **required texts** for this course (*that is, you must read and digest their content or your grade will suffer*):

Cronin, Thomas E., and Michael A. Genovese. 2012. *The Paradoxes of the American Presidency*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-986104-0 (hereafter "C&G").

Kennedy, David M. 1999. *Freedom From Fear: The American People in the Great Depression*. *Part I*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-516892-5 (hereafter, "K").

Mandated Documentation of Course Attendance

As of fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course in order to comply with federal regulations involving student financial aid. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the **self-introduction assignment**, on the Canvas Discussion board, by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than **Friday, Aug. 28, 2015**. Failure to do so by that deadline will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid (adapted from a draft statement from Academic Affairs Office, UCF).

Grading

Exams (300 points)

Each of three exams during the course is worth 100 points. The tests will be composed entirely of *very challenging* multiple choice questions. **They are each noncomprehensive**, although (to some extent) the material builds throughout the course. These exams are not for the faint hearted. Each is worth 20 percent of the final course grade, for a total of 60 percent drawn from performance on exams.

No make-up exams will be allowed absent verifiable, documented, exigent (i.e., truly emergency, Act of God) circumstances. You MUST contact me before an exam if you know you will miss it and explain the **truly compelling situation** that prevents you from taking the exam as scheduled. My office phone has voicemail if I am away from my desk. Leave a message if you do not speak to me directly. If you do not speak to me or leave a message indicating your failure to take the exam as scheduled, I will look *very disfavorably* upon your request to take a make-up exam. There are *absolutely NO excuses* for missing an exam and not contacting me in advance. Unexcused exams will receive a failing grade (0 points).

NO STUDENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO TAKE THE EXAM AFTER THE FIRST STUDENT HAS FINISHED AND SUBMITTED IT TO ME.

FURTHERMORE, TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING THE EXAM. IF A STUDENT EVEN TOUCHES ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE, THE STUDENT WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE EXAM. Do not test me on this provision. I, sadly, have had to implement it in past terms.

Internet Assignments (100 points (5 @ 20 points each))

In addition, you are required to complete several Internet assignments across the term. *You should do them as they are assigned, since you cannot control for the internet being down, or the site that you must access being*

temporarily unavailable. These assignments are designed to make you more familiar with the Internet and the sites relevant to the study of the American Presidency. They are due at THE BEGINNING OF CLASS for each of the due dates. "Beginning of Class" means at 12:30 pm and not one minute later. **THIS MEANS IF YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS EVEN ONE MINUTE LATE IN BEING SUBMITTED FOR ANY REASON IMAGINABLE, IT WILL BE PENALIZED ONE LETTER GRADE PER DAY OR PORTION THEREOF. ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS AS THEY *WILL* OCCUR JUST AS YOU ARE TRYING TO FINISH YOUR ASSIGNMENT, I ASSURE YOU.** If you come to me with an exotic tale of woe about your not submitting on time your assignments, I will nod relatively sympathetically and then point to this warning. Abiding by deadlines, arbitrary as they may be, is part of any professional life. Learn to do it now and it will be easier later, I assure you.

Internet assignments must be stapled once in the upper left-hand corner and must bear the name of the student author. I download and print assignments in hard copy. So assignments submitted via Canvas are not identified unless the student's name appears on the assignment itself. **Assignments not satisfying these requirements will be penalized**.

Class Participation (50 points)

Class topics are discussed using the Socratic Method. You are expected to read and prepare for discussions. Class attendance is not mandatory. However, to insure that the class participation part of your grade accurately reflects your attendance, I will take attendance each class period through various methods. This information is solely for the purpose of knowing whether you regularly attended class, even if you are not frequently called on to answer questions. In the event that your final course grade is "borderline" at the end of the semester, students who have regularly attended throughout the semester may be given the benefit of the doubt. Students who regularly miss class will find that their exam grades are adversely affected. The bulk of the material (although not all of it) that appears on my exams will be discussed in class.

Daily Survey Completion (50 points: daily survey)

Your usage of the Canvas course site will be assessed at the end of the term to distribute this portion of the course grade. This includes completing the survey once per lecture day. Surveys are due by 08:30 am of the following lecture day. If we have lecture on Monday, for example, the survey for that class is due by the following Wednesday at 08:30 am. Days on which we have tests scheduled or days on which there is a University holiday are not "lecture days." Students should become familiar with all of their fellow colleagues, even those who do not speak during every class. Your usage of the Survey tool will be assessed at the end of the term to distribute this portion of the course grade.

Specific assignments for you will be announced on the Canvas site. You, thus, must check the site regularly. It is made a component of the course so as to facilitate communication between you as members of the class. You will find that your colleagues have similar backgrounds and experiences and that they can be your best allies in making it through this course, just as you will discover later in life once you enter the "real world."

This portion of your grade includes ten (10) percent for the completion of the **daily survey**, allocated based on the proportion of surveys that you complete throughout the term. Completing the daily surveys is a good way to check your comprehension of the day's material, and it is an easy way to earn points for the final course grade. Ignoring them is dangerous to your understanding (and, thus, your final course grade).

The following are regulations regarding the daily surveys that must be followed:

- **If you do not attend class on a particular day FOR ANY REASON IMAGINABLE, you may NOT complete the survey for that day as you cannot logically answer the questions posed**. If you nevertheless attempt to do so, I will mark it as if you did not.

- **Do NOT submit blank responses for the daily survey**. **Repeated violation of this rule** will result in the entire class's being required to send survey responses to me through my UCF email account. Once again, past classes have tested me on this and I have been forced to implement this rule, which is quite troublesome for instructor and students alike.

- **Failing to complete even a small number of the daily surveys will negatively affect your final course grade.**

Course Point Allocation

Component	*Weight*
Exam I	100 Points
Exam II	100 Points
Exam III	100 Points
Internet Assgn.	100 Points
Class Participation	50 Points
Daily Surveys	50 Points
TOTAL	500 Points

Grading Scale (as a Percentage of Total Points)

GRADE	**PERCENTAGE**
A	90-100
B+	89-87
B	86-80
C+	79-77
C	74-70
D+	69-67
D	66-60
F	59 or less

Course Policies (aka My Pet Peeves)

There are several points you should note.

No Excuses

First, this class operates under a "No-Excuse" policy. It is incumbent upon you to be responsible for the notes given in the unlikely event you miss class. If you miss class, you NEED NOT inform me about it. Because this course is an upper division class, you will quickly learn that if you intend to pass, you should plan on regularly attending class, keeping up with the lecture, and completing the assignments as they are given.

Seating Chart

Second, shortly after the course begins, I send around a seating chart to facilitate learning names and the implementation of the Socratic Method. Please decide where you would like to sit within the first few days of class. You should note that I use the display monitors extensively during lectures. If you have vision difficulties, please situate yourself accordingly.

Accommodations for Physically Challenged Students

Third, if you are physically challenged, every attempt is made to accommodate your learning needs. File documentation with the Student Disability Service Office and follow its regulations. This class operates in accordance with the Office of Student Disability Services here at the University and federal guidelines governing the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (1990).

Plagiarism and Cheating: Don't Let it Happen to You!

Fourth, please consult the policy regarding plagiarism and cheating which is attached. Each of you must review the University policy on the penalties for plagiarism. Almost every semester one or more students appropriates the published work of someone else, and I have had the unfortunate responsibility of failing those students and seeking disciplinary action against them. You are on notice that I have failed students because they decided to risk their academic careers by choosing the easy way out

Caveat Emptor

Fifth, this is an upper division course. I expect that you will devote **several hours per week outside of class** studying, reading, and discussing topics introduced in class. Make no mistake: this is not an easy course. This is an upper-division course with correspondent responsibilities for you. Just as in a democracy, this class places responsibilities on you to be informed and active. Democracy cannot survive without active and engaged citizens. Knowledge of the presidency is vital to that endeavor.

Socratic Method as a Pedagogical Modality

Sixth, class topics are discussed using the Socratic Method. This means that you are expected to answer questions about the text and material that we have covered in class AND TO HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT ITS IMPLICATIONS. You will quickly learn that one of my favorite questions is, "what does that mean?". You are expected to read and prepare

for discussions. I assume that the reading for the day will be done for the day that it is assigned. LEARN TO PACE YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY!

Respect for Colleagues and Their Comments

Additionally, you are on notice that this course engages in difficult discussions about our political leaders. Hopefully we will have intelligent arguments regarding the concepts involved in the course. Above all, everyone will have the right to express their opinions freely and openly without fear of reprisal from other students or myself.

Attendance

Seventh, I do not have a mandatory attendance policy as I treat you like adults; that is, it is your responsibility to attend class. If you are absent, you are nonetheless responsible for the material covered in class. I send around attendance sheets at the beginning of each class so I know who has attended class, and so I can gauge your class participation even if you do not speak in class. Persons who are "borderline" in their grades receive the "benefit of the doubt" in the final computation of grades if they have frequently attended class. It is YOUR responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. The sheet is sent around at the beginning of each class. If you are late, you must see me after class to sign it; otherwise I cannot give you the "benefit of the doubt!"

Laptops and Audiotaping

I prohibit the use of laptops (and other similar electronic devices, such as iPads and e-readers) in class. Such devices, while useful in some contexts, represent a barrier between professor and student and actually may make student understanding more difficult as students are transformed from learners into typists. Also, other students' use of laptops may represent a distraction from lecture and class discussion. If you have concerns about this policy, please see me.

If you have disabilities regarding handwriting notes, I encourage you to tape record the lectures, which is allowed. Students who miss class should see me before requesting your notes, and the student who has missed must make all reasonable accommodations to meet your scheduling limitations for conducting the exchange. The student providing the notes is not responsible for providing any materials and should not incur any expenses associated with the exchange. Students providing the notes are not required to provide notes for more than three (3) lecture periods that have been missed. If you feel that you are being coerced about providing your notes to someone who is not attending class, please see me immediately. I reserve the right to revoke the privilege of using the above devices.

Extra Credit

Ninth, throughout the session there ***may or may not*** be opportunities for you to earn extra credit points. Prior assignments have included pop quizzes on current events and looking up specific questions that other students or myself may ask about the subject material. This extra credit is announced in class on a sporadic basis. If you miss class, you should check with classmates about missed opportunities. I reserve the right to NOT give you the extra credit option should you miss the class period that the extra credit was assigned. All extra credit assignments are due the next class period after they have been announced in class.

Word Processing Required

Tenth, all assignments (with the exceptions of exams and quizzes done in class) must be typewritten or word processed. THIS INCLUDES THE INTERNET ASSIGNMENTS. HANDWRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you do not know how to use a computer or word processor, it is strongly recommended that you learn to do so. If you are concerned about this, please see me. Numerous tutorials are available on campus to assist you. You should allocate enough time for printer cartridges to run dry and dogs to eat papers and computer disks! You laugh, but trust me: I have heard every excuse in the book! Late assignments will receive reduced grades at one letter grade per calendar day late.

Duplicates of Assignments

Eleventh, while I have never lost an assignment, I require that you make copies of all work submitted to me in the unlikely event that something should happen. In the event that I should need a copy of the assignment, and you are not able to provide it, you cannot receive credit. Even after I have returned materials to you, please hold on to the work until after you have received your grade from the Registrar. This protects you from any possibility that you might receive an erroneous grade.

Technological Tools

Twelfth, I require that everyone learn how to use e-mail and the technological tools associated with the course. They can facilitate your comprehension of the course material. I have found that this encourages students to communicate with me about questions you may have regarding the material discussed in class. You are responsible for any assignments or other information that I distribute on the course's associated web sites. If you already have an e-mail account (either through the University or a commercial server), please do not sign-up for an additional account, but give me your address. You should check your mail on a regular basis as I post any changes about class assignments to your account and/or to course-associated web sites.

Classroom Decorum

- Because it is disruptive to everyone to have students arrive late and/or leave early, *you must be on time for every class and you are expected to remain in class until the period is completed*, unless there are extraordinary circumstances (*e.g.*, you are about to become ill on the person in front of you) or you have informed me of your *urgent need* to leave before the period ends. "Urgent need" does not include job-related responsibilities or issues. How would you act once you manage to find a job in the "real world"? Would you arrive late or leave early? Submit assignments and reports late? Act in a disruptive manner? Act professionally now and it will be easier to transition later to the professional world.

- Do not talk (even in a whisper) with any of your neighbors. It disturbs them and it disturbs me. If you are talking, I presume you have a question about the material and I will ask you about it.

- Do not listen to an iPhone, iPod or similar device, read a newspaper or other material not previously assigned for class. If you do so, you will be counted ABSENT FOR THE DAY. Repeated violation of this rule will result in a grade of WF or F.

- PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND/OR BEEPERS. Repeated violation of this rule constitutes "continuous unruly behavior." (*See* Classroom Decorum Policy No. 5 below).

- Continuous unruly behavior will result in a grade of WF or F. An example of this is the persistent discourtesy of talking in class while someone else (including the instructor) is doing so. The classroom is not a living room, in which one talks during a television show. If you wish to talk, absent yourself from class with the appropriate diminution of your class grade.

Time-Sensitive Communications and Assignments

In past semesters, some students have had difficulty submitting assignments to me by the due date and time. This difficulty arises, in part, from their reliance on email and other technologies beyond their control. Accordingly, for time-sensitive communications, send me a message through the Canvas Mail tool, contact me on the telephone, or see me in person during office hours. This is especially the case in a summer course.

Best Allies

The professor is **not your friend**. He cannot be your friend, as he is charged with the weighty responsibility of assessing your understanding of the course material and work in an objective manner. He may act in a courteous, kind and helpful manner, but do not mistake that for friendship. You will find that your colleagues will likely have similar backgrounds and experiences and that they can be your best allies in making it through this course, just as you will discover in later life.

Your best allies in helping you make it through this course unscathed are those sitting around you. They will help you understand the material better, and you will do the same for them. By teaching the material to fellow students, one begins to truly understand the concepts and ideas discussed. The learning process begins with teaching.

Syllabus NOT a Contract

Finally, this syllabus is not deemed to be a contract. I reserve the right to change any of the exam times or assignments by providing you with a forty-eight hour notice of such changes. Such changes are announced in class, sent on e-mail, or posted on one of the course-associated web sites. Therefore, you are responsible for any changes that may occur during the course of the session. If you are late, you should check with your colleagues to be sure you did not miss anything. As such, your absence in class is not deemed a sufficient excuse as to why work is incomplete. In the event that the University administration closes school for any reason (e.g., hurricane), any assignments or examinations that were scheduled on the day of the canceled class will be due at the next regularly scheduled class meeting.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PROJECTED DATE/WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENT
Aug. 24-Aug. 28	Course Requirements and Introduction and Historical Background	Syllabus and other docs. C&G, Chapts. 1-2	**Self Intro** (due by Fri., Aug. 28 by 12:30 – on Canvas)
Aug. 31-Sept. 4	Presidential Selection and Presidential Character	C&G, Chapt. 3	
MON., SEPT. 7	***** NO CLASS – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY *****		
Sept. 7-Sept. 18	Institutional Presidency *The Executive Office*	C&G, Chapt. 7	**Internet Assgn. 1** (due Wed., Sept. 9 by 12:30)
Sept. 21-Sept. 25	Institutional Presidency *The Congress*	C&G, Chapt. 6	**Internet Assgn. 2** (due Wed., Sept. 23 by 12:30)
Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Institutional Presidency *The Supreme Court*	C&G, Chapt. 9	
FRI., OCT. 2	***** TEST I *****		
Oct. 5-Oct. 9	Institutional Presidency *The Bureaucracy*	C&G, Chapt. 7 (re-read)	**Internet Assgn. 3** (due Wed., Oct. 7 by 12:30)
Oct. 12-Oct. 16	Institutional Presidency *The Vice Presidency*	C&G, Chapt. 8	
Oct. 19-Oct. 23	The Public Presidency	C&G, Chapt. 2 (re-read)	
Oct. 26-Oct. 30	The Public Presidency (continued)		
FRI., OCT. 30	***** TEST II *****		
Nov. 2-Nov. 6	President as Policy Leader *Domestic*	C&G, Chapt. 4	**Internet Assgn. 4** (due Wed., Nov. 4 by 12:30)
Nov. 9-Nov. 13	President as Policy Leader *Economic*	C&G, Chapt. 5 (pp. 114-126)	
WED., NOV. 11	***** NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY *****		
Nov. 16-Nov. 30	President as Policy Leader *Foreign*	C&G, Chapt. 5 (pp. 126-149) K, All	**Internet Assgn. 5** (due Wed., Nov. 18 by 12:30) **No class Fri., Nov. 27**
Dec. 2-Dec. 7	Catch-Up, Summary and Conclusions		
FRI., DEC. 11, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM	***** TEST III *****		**NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DATE AND TIME. DO NOT ASK AS I CANNOT GRANT THEM**

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

The Golden Rule: A Handbook for Students (University of Central Florida) defines academic dishonesty as including cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is defined as "unauthorized assistance; communication to another through written, visual or oral means. The presentation of material that has not been studied/learned but obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment or project constitutes a violation. The unauthorized possession or use of examination or course related material may also constitute cheating" (p. 6). Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's work "without any indication of source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another is plagiarizing. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards (p.6-7)".

Normally, the penalty for a violation of this policy is an "F" in the course.

Statement of ADA Compliance

I cooperate with the Office of Student Disability Services to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the third class day.

[Portions of this policy were adapted from the University of North Texas Department of Political Science Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism]