POS 3413-0070: The American Presidency

Department of Political Science
College of Science, University of Central Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Dr. Daniel Marien	Term:	Fall 2016
		Class Meeting Days	Wednesdays
Phone:	321-433-7952	Class Meeting Hours:	6:00 - 8:50 p.m.
E-Mail:	Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu	Class Location:	COCOA Bldg 3, room 235

OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE LOCATION	OFFICE PHONE NUMBER
Tuesdays 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	UCF Orlando Philips Hall, room 302N	407-823-0012
Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 PM	UCF Cocoa: Bldg. 3, room 223	321-433-7952

If you plan to visit me during office hours, it is suggested (not required, simply suggested) that you email your intention ahead of time. Advanced notice helps me select who I see first when several students show up at the same time. If you cannot come to my office, phoning can also be an effective way of solving various issues. Phoning allows for a richer interaction than email exchange. A phone conversation outside of office hours can also be scheduled via prior email exchange.

I. University Course Catalog Description

POS 3413 COS-POLS 3(3,0)
The American Presidency:
PR: POS 2041 or C.I.
Examination of historical and contemporary role of the presidency, including the presidential selection process and the office's evolution in status, powers, administrative responsibilities, leadership, and decision-making.

II. Specific Description of this Course

This course introduces participants to the study of presidential elections and the exercise of presidential leadership. It also trains students into formulating relevant and meaningful questions and answering them with the tools of political science.

The course will be organized as a seminar culminating in the composition of an individual research report. The report may take the form of an academic book review or a research essay.

To maximize learning and training in social science methods, students will submit a draft research report -- on which they will receive extensive instructor's feedback -- and a final report integrating their response to the instructor's feedback.

Finally, students will share their research reports with one another. A brief quiz verifying familiarity with other student's reports will be administered during the examination period. In this way, students write for one another and participate in the production of the course' body of knowledge.

III. Course Prerequisites

The successful completion of an introductory course in American Government.
Keeping abreast of current affairs through the regular reading of a serious newspaper.

IV. Course Credits

3.0 cr.

V. Required Texts

George C, Edwards and Stephen Wayne, *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy-Making*, Cengage Learning, 2014, ninth edition, ISBN: 978-0-8400-3012-2.

Doug McAdam and Karina Kloos, *Deeply Divided: Racial Politics and Social Movements in Post-War America*. Oxford University Press, 2014, ISBN: 978-0-19-993785-1. (Also available in electronic format.)

VI. Basis for Final Grade

Assessments

WHAT	WHEN	WORTH
BEFORE AND AFTER PERCEPTION State what you perceive/know regarding presidential politics before and after taking the course.	**BEFORE:** **Friday Aug. 26 at 11:59 P.M.** **AFTER:** **Wednesday Nov. 30 at 11:59 P.M.**	BEFORE:2% AFTER: 3% **Your financial aid depends on timely submission of BEFORE on Aug. 26.**
WEEKLY QUIZZES Multiple choice; time limited. The semester average is used for calculating course grade.	**IN CLASS** **Aug. 31 to Oct. 26** **(Weeks 2-10)**	25%
WEEKLY POSTS Postings of answers to discussion questions in the Weekly Discussion Boards.	**THE DAY BEFORE CLASS** **by Tuesday Evenings** **Aug. 30 to Oct. 25** **(Weeks 2-10)**	25%
INTERIM RESEARCH DESCRIPTIONS This is not an outline or draft. It is a brief description of your research project. Research project must be approved by the instructor. Check for feedback soon after submission.	**By Tuesday Evenings** **Weeks 11-12** **(11/1; 11/8)**	Not graded but compulsory, point penalties (-2) applied for each non-submission .
FIRST VERSION OF RESEARCH REPORT Either a book review or a research essay. Length: 2,000 to 3,000 words.	**Tuesday Nov. 15** **by 11:59 P.M.**	15%

FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH REPORT Either a book review or a research essay. Length: 2,000 to 3,000 words.	**Wednesday, Nov. 30** **By 5:00 P.M.**	20%
FINAL QUIZ A brief quiz on the research reports authored by class participants.	**Wednesday, Dec. 7** **At 6:00 P.M.**	10%

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0 - 59	F

VII. Course Schedule (subject to adjustment)

Week 1, Aug. 24: Introduction

- **Presentation of course goals and means.**

Week 2, Aug. 31: Nominating Candidates for the Presidency

- **Atlantic/Rauch, "How American Politics Went Insane," in Webcourses, under Files.**
- **Edwards and Wayne, Preface, Chapters 1-2 (skip pp. 11-17).**

Week 3, Sept. 7: Electing a President

- **Foreign Affairs/Fukuyama, "The Meaning of the 2016 Election," in Webcourses, under Files.**
- **Edwards and Wayne, Preface, Chapter 3.**

Week 4, Sept. 14: The 2016 Presidential Election

- **Annals/Sides, "Electoral Landscape 2016," in Webcourses, under Files.**
- **Annals/Jacobson, "Obama Legacy, Generational Imprinting," in Webcourses, under Files.**

Week 5, Sept. 21: The Historical Origins of Polarization

- **McAdam and Kloos, chapters 1-2.**

Week 6, Sept. 28: The President and the Public

- **McAdam and Kloos, chapter 3**
- **Edwards and Wayne, chapter 4**

Week 7, Oct. 5: Presidential Decision-Making

- **McAdam and Kloos, chapter 4**
- **Edwards and Wayne, chapter 6**

Week 8, Oct. 12: The President and Congress

- **McAdam and Kloos, chapter 5**
- **Edwards and Wayne, chapter 9**

Week 9, Oct. 19: The Obama Years

- **McAdam and Kloos, chapters 6-7**

Week 10, Oct. 26: How to De-Polarize American Politics

- **McAdam and Kloos, chapter 8**

Week 11, Nov. 2: Research

- **Submit you First Interim Research Description by TUESDAY Nov.1**

Week 12, Nov. 9:

- **Submit you Second Interim Research Description by TUESDAY Nov.8**

Week 13, Nov. 16: First Draft of Research Report

- **Submit your draft of research report by TUESDAY Nov. 15**

Weeks 14, Nov. 23: Feedback on First Drafts

- **Instructor gives oral and written feedback on First Drafts**

Week 15, Wednesday Nov. 30: Final Research Report

- **Circulate your Final research Reports to all class participants via Knights email.**
- **Selection of reports to be assigned for final quiz.**

Week 16, Wednesday Dec. 7: Final Quiz

VIII. Course Policies

Late Work Policy:
There are no make-ups for missing weekly quizzes or discussion postings.

Grades of Incomplete

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

IX. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Use my email to communicate with me: Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu. Allow up to 48 hours for a response. Repeat message if you haven't received a response within 48 hours.

X. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access:
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Academic Conduct Policy:
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a failing grade for the entire course and can also result in expulsion from the University.

Turinitin.com:
In this course the instructor may utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with

billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. The instructor submits your texts or essays to Turnitin at his discretion. Student found guilty of plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the entire course.