POS 3413-0W58: The American Presidency

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

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Dr. Daniel Marien	Term: Class Meeting	Spring 2018 Online
Phone: E-Mail:	407-823-0012 Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu		
GTA	Peyman Asadzade, Ph.D. student Peyman.Asadzade@Knights.ucf.edu		

OFFICE HOURS From 1/8 until 4/24 2018	OFFICE LOCATION	OFFICE PHONE NUMBER
Mondays 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	UCF Orlando Philips Hall, room 302N	407-823-0012
Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 PM (Not available during dept. meeting, i.e. every other Tuesday b/w 3:00 and 4:00 PM.)	UCF Orlando Philips Hall, room 302N	407-823-0012

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 leadership. The course will have three broad interrelated focuses:

(1) A general discussion of the role and powers of the modern presidency in the U.S. political system;

(2) An analysis of presidential leadership performances from the contrasting viewpoints of the President's personal agency and the President's structural location in political time. For this purpose, we will use two analytically different perspectives, namely that of Fred Greenstein's psychological approach and that of Stephen Skowronek's structural-historical scheme and;

(3) An overview of political developments during the presidencies of Herbert Hoover; Franklin D. Roosevelt; John F. Kennedy; Lyndon B. Johnson; Richard Nixon; Ronald Reagan. George H.W. Bush; Barack Obama; and Donald J. Trump.

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

We will read selected excerpts from the following books (you need to procure these books):

Joseph Pika et al. *The Politics of the Presidency*. CQ Press, 2018. Revised 9th edition, ISBN: 978-1-5063-6779-8.

Fred Greenstein, *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Barack Obama.* Princeton University Press, Third edition, 2009, ISBN: 978-0-691-14383-5.

William Leuchtenburg, *The American President: From Teddy Roosevelt to Bill Clinton*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Occasional additional brief readings will be made available in Webcourses in Files under Assigned Readings.

VI. Basis for Final Grade

Assessment Overview

WHAT	WHEN	POINTS
Before Course Knowledge of Presidency This serves to free up your financial aid.	Friday 1/12: 11:59pm Attach file in Dropbox	**1**
After Course Knowledge of Presidency	Monday 4/16: 11:59 PM Attach file in Dropbox	**2**
Weekly Quiz Average Each quiz is over 52 points. The average is used to compute the final course grade	Tuesday Jan. 16 Monday afterwards at 11:59 PM	**52**
Weekly Discussion Post	Tuesday Jan. 16	

Average Each weekly post is scored over 35 points. The average is used to compute the final course grade	Monday afterwards at 11:59 PM	**35**
Four ECP Posts Engaging class participants with respectful and well thought out disagreements on their answers to Evaluation Questions. Each post should have a minimum of 300 words.		**10** 2.5 points for each post meeting the standards explained in Files under Grading Standards.
TOTAL		**100**

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)

NOTE: The weekly modules will occasionally add brief Instructor Remarks and/or video documentaries to the assignments listed below.

Week 1, Jan. 8-16: The President's Personal Qualities

- **Greenstein, chapters 1 and 15.**
- **Frontline video documentary, *The Choice 2016* (2 hrs).**
- **President Trump end of year interview with the *New York Times*.**
- **Excerpts from Michael Wolff's book and related articles.**

Week 2, Jan. 17-22: Structural Approach and Hoover

- **Pika et al., chapter 1 The Changing Presidency.**
- **Leuchtenburg, Preface, chapter 3: Harding, Coolidge and Hoover**
- **Skowronek, "The Political Structures of Presidential Leadership" in Files under B) Assigned Readings.**

Week 3, Jan. 23-29: FDR and the Creation of the New Deal Liberal Political Order

- **Leuchtenburg, chapter 4: Franklin Delano Roosevelt.**
- **Greenstein, chapter 2: The Virtuosic Leadership of FDR.**

Week 4, Jan 30-Feb 5: Public Politics and John F. Kennedy

- **Pika et al., chapter 3: Public Politics of the Presidency**
- **Leuchtenburg, chapter 7: JFK**
- **Greenstein, chapter 5: Coming to Terms with Kennedy**

Week 5, Feb. 6-12: Lyndon Baines Johnson

- **Leuchtenburg, chapter 8 Lyndon B. Johnson**
- **Greenstein, chapter 6: LBJ and the Primacy of Politics**

Week 6, Feb.13-19: Nixon: Agony of the Liberal New Deal Order

- **Leuchtenburg, chapter 9: Nixon**
- **Greenstein, chapter 7 The Paradox of Richard Nixon**

Week 7, Feb. 20-26: Reagan: Conservative Restoration

- **Leuchtenburg, chapter 11 Ronald Reagan**
- **Greenstein, chapter 10: RR: The Innocent as Agent of Change**

Week 8, Feb. 27-Mar. 5: George H.W. Bush and the Challenges of the Politics of Articulation

- **Leuchtenburg, chapter 12: GHWB**
- **Greenstein, chapter 13 Politics of Agenda Control.**
- **Skowronek, "Reagan, Bush and Beyond" in Files under B) Assigned Readings**

Week 9, Mar. 6-12: Clinton, Personality and the Politics of Preemption

- **Leuchtenburg, chapter 13: Clinton**
- **Greenstein, chapter 12: The Undisciplined Clinton**

Week 10, Mar. 13-19: SPRING BREAK

Week 11, Mar. 19-26: Presidency and Government

- **Pika et al., chapter 5: Legislative Politics**
- **Pika et al. chapter 6: Executive Politics**

Week 12, Mar. 27-Apr. 2: Obama: A New New Deal?

- **Time Magazine, "What Barack Obama Can Learn from FDR and what the Democrats Need to Do," Nov 24, 2008.**
- **Greenstein, "Barack Obama: The Man and His Presidency at the Midterm" (PS Political Science and Politics, January 2011).**
- **Theda Skocpol, *Obama and America's Political Future* (excerpts in Files under B) Assigned Readings).**

Week 13, Apr. 3-9: Obama: A New New Deal?

- **Readings To Be Announced**

Weeks 14, Apr. 10-16: Trump: Post-Reagan Conservatism?

- **Readings To Be Announced**

Week 15, Apr. 17-23: Trump: Post-Reagan Conservatism?

- **Readings To Be Announced**

Week 16, Apr.24-Apr. 30: Exam Period

- **There will be no final exam in this course. We will use this period to prolong, if need be, our examination of the Obama and Trump presidencies with the same exercises (quiz and discussion questions as in the previous week). This type of prolongation and continuation of the regular exercises in the Exam Period is very likely.**

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.