POS3413-19Fall 0W60

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POS 3413: The American Presidency

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

- Course Name: The American Presidency
- Course ID & Section: POS3413-19Fall 0W60
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Fall 2019
- Web Only Course

Course Description

Please read this syllabus carefully. This is an online only course. The course material is organized into a series of modules. When you've finished reading this syllabus, you can start with the "Start Here" module (there's a link to it at the bottom of the syllabus).

This course focuses on the United States presidency as it has developed over time and as it exists today. Courses like this typically take one of two approaches; students either study presidents in a chronological order or the course is organized around major themes. This course takes the latter approach but incorporates a lot of biographical and historical material to illustrate and enliven the major themes. 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 catalog description: 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.

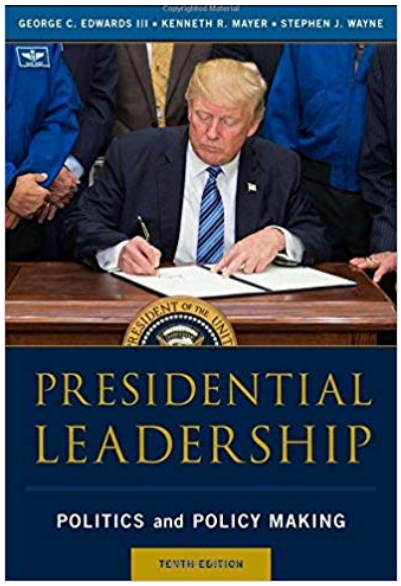
Course prerequisites: ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

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.

Required Texts and Supplemental Readings

- **REQUIRED**: George C. Edwards III, Kenneth R. Mayer, and Stephen J. Wayne, *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making, 10th Edition* (Rowman & Littlefield 2018). ISBN-13: 978-1538110850, ISBN-10: 1538110857. View on Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Presidential-Leadership-Politics-Policy-Making/dp/1538110857/ref=sr_1_4?qid=1561046000) .



- **BOOK BUYING ISSUES?** Don't wait until the second or third week of class to get the books required for this class. If the timing of financial aid is an issue, take advantage of **UCF's Textbook Purchase Programs (https://finaid.ucf.edu/receiving/funds-for-books/)** .
- **SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS.** Additional readings will be announced and/or distributed online. In particular, these readings will focus on rulings from the most recent Supreme Court term(s), and articles regarding the various uses of federal and state judicial power.

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on following components:

1. **Module Quizzes** (50%) - Each substantive module in this course includes a short quiz to test your understanding of the assigned material. Module quizzes consist of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Your lowest module quiz score will be dropped.
2. **Final Exam** (25%) – The final examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of the subject matter in a constructive manner. Students can expect a mix of multiple choice and true-false questions.
3. **Small Group Discussions** (25%) - Each student will be assigned to a small group of 5-10 students. In your small groups, you'll discuss how the course material, share independent research, and tell your group what you've learned through class-related activities.

Workload Expectations

This is a three credit hour class. The workload expectation per credit hour is set forth in the **UCF Catalog, Registration Policies, Terms and Credit Hours (http://catalog.ucf.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=170#registration-policies)** , which states the amount of work represented by one credit hour is not less than "One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week [or equivalent work in internship, directed readings, etc.] for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time." In an online class, you make up for hours of class time on your own. This means you are expected to work at least 9 hours per week on this class in a regular Fall or Spring Semester or 18 hours per week on this class in an abbreviated Summer Term.

Spring Semesters: This class does not take a week off for Spring Break in order to fit the final exam schedule. If you have a trip planned, I strongly encourage you to work ahead so this class won't interfere with your plans.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Make-ups for in-class writing, quizzes, the midterm, or the final exam will only be allowed for official University activities or personal emergencies. Written documentation is required. Make-up assessments may be different. There are no extra credit assignments in this class. See **UCF Policy 4.401. (http://policies.ucf.edu/)** and **UCF Regulation 5.020 (https://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5.asp)** .

Late Work

Completing all your work by the specified dues dates is important to your success in this class. Late work will be penalized. You will lose 10% of the possible total points on an assignment per day late. For example, if you receive a score of 9 out of 10 on a quiz two days after it was due (i.e. you took a quiz due Sunday on Tuesday instead), your score will be reduced by 2 points (20% of 10 points), so you will receive a 7 out of 10 on that quiz. You will receive no credit for work complete ten or more days after its due date. However, because modules unlock only after your have completed prior modules, so you will still need to finish your work (for no credit) to complete this class.

Grading Scale

Name:	Range:	
A	100 %	to 92.5%
A-	< 92.5 %	to 89.5%
B+	< 89.5 %	to 86.5%
B	< 86.5 %	to 82.5%
B-	< 82.5 %	to 79.5%
C+	< 79.5 %	to 76.5%
C	< 76.5 %	to 72.5%
C-	< 72.5 %	to 69.5%
D+	< 69.5 %	to 66.5%
D	< 66.5 %	to 62.5%
D-	< 62.5 %	to 59.5%
F	< 59.5 %	to 0.0%

Any missing assignments are treated as 0 scores for the purposes of calculating final course grades.

Grades of "Incomplete"

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.

Group Work Policy

There are no group projects in this class. You are welcome to discuss course material with other students, but you are responsible for your own work.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the **Office of Student Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students)** for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Professionalism Policy

Follow university policy and basic rules of etiquette. You must behave appropriately in all your class interactions.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, **visit the UWC website (http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/)**, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

You do not need to come to the UCF campus to receive help from a trained writing tutor. As a UCF student, you have access to writing tutors at the UCF Online Writing Center. You can **schedule an online consultation (http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/schedule-a-consultation/)** with a writing tutor. You can get the help you need to complete the Final Report of your Civic Engagement Project online at a time convenient to you! This service is free to you.

Disability Statement

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. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with **Student Accessibility Services (https://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/)**, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Emergency Procedures and Campus Safety

Students are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and familiar with actions to take in various types of emergencies. For more information, **see Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Statement on Emergency Procedures and Campus Safety (http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/TeachingAndLearningResources/CourseDesign/Syllabus/statements.php#safety)**.

Accommodations for Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact the instructor to discuss your circumstances.

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith (not already reflected in the normal class schedule). See **current schedule of major religious holidays (https://www.fctl.ucf.edu/TeachingAndLearningResources/CourseDesign/ReligiousObservances/content/religious_observances_2018-2020.pdf)**. For additional information, contact the **Office of Diversity Initiatives (https://diversity.ucf.edu/)** at 407-823-6479.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Financial Aid Requirement

As of Fall, 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please ***complete the Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course***. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

START HERE MODULE

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Aug 26, 2019	Start Module/Week 01 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741117&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
	UCF Classes Start (Fall 2019) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1714233&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6235907)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Aug 29, 2019	Drop/Swap Deadline (Fall 2019) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1714234&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Fri Aug 30, 2019	Add Deadline (Fall 2019) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1714235&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6235908)	due by 5pm
Sun Sep 1, 2019	Module 01 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142127)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 2, 2019	Start Module/Week 02 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741118&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Sep 4, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 02 (May Require Independent Research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215437)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 8, 2019	Module 02 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142128)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 9, 2019	Start Module/Week 03 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741119&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Sep 11, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 03 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215438)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 15, 2019	Module 03 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142129)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 16, 2019	Start Module/Week 04 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741120&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Sep 18, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 04 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215439)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 22, 2019	Module 04 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142130)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 23, 2019	Start Module/Week 05 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741121&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Sep 25, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 05 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215440)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 29, 2019	Module 05 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142131)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 30, 2019	Start Module/Week 06 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741122&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Oct 2, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 06 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215441)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 6, 2019	Module 06 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142132)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 7, 2019	Start Module/Week 07 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741123&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Oct 9, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 07 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215442)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Oct 13, 2019	Module 07 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142133)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 14, 2019	Start Module/Week 08 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741124&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Oct 16, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 08 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215436)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 20, 2019	Module 08 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142134)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 21, 2019	Start Module/Week 09 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741125&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Oct 23, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 09 (May Require Independent Research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215449)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 27, 2019	Module 09 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142135)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 28, 2019	Start Module/Week 10 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741126&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Oct 30, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 10 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215448)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 3, 2019	Module 10 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142136)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 4, 2019	Start Module/Week 11 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741127&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Nov 6, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 11 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215447)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 10, 2019	Module 11 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142137)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 11, 2019	Start Module/Week 12 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741128&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Nov 13, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 12 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215446)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 17, 2019	Module 12 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142138)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 18, 2019	Start Module/Week 13 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741129&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Nov 20, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 13 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215445)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 24, 2019	Module 13 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142139)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 25, 2019	Start Module/Week 14 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741130&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Wed Nov 27, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 14 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6215444)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 28, 2019	Thanksgiving Holiday (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1714236&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Sun Dec 1, 2019	Module 14 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142140)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 2, 2019	Start Studying for Final Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1741131&include_contexts=course_1327421)	12am
Sun Dec 8, 2019	Final Exam (Fall 2019) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327421/assignments/6142142)	due by 11:59pm