

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

POS 332
The Presidency

Bruce Miroff
Spring 2008

The following books are to be purchased at either the campus bookstore or Mary Jane Books:

Sidney Milkis and Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2007*, 5th edition (CQ Press, 2008)

Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, 8th edition (CQ Press, 2006)

Stephen Skowronek, *Presidential Leadership in Political Time* (University Press of Kansas, 2008)

COURSE OUTLINE

- Jan. 23 Introduction to the course
- Jan. 25 Studying the presidency
Reading: Skowronek, *Presidential Leadership in Political Time*, Ch. 1
- Jan. 28 The constitutional presidency
30 Reading: Milkis and Nelson, *The American Presidency*, Ch. 1, 2
- Feb. 1 Game #1: Redesigning the Constitutional presidency
Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Appendix (Constitution: Articles I and II, Amendments XII, XX, XXII, XXV)
- Feb. 4 The development of the presidency from Washington to Wilson
6 Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 5, 6, 8, 9
8
- Feb. 11 Theories of presidential leadership
13 Reading: Skowronek, Ch. 2, 3; Nelson, Ch. 3
15

FIRST QUIZ ON FEB. 11

- Feb. 20 Presidential character and personality
Reading: Nelson, Ch. 6

Feb. 22 The institutional presidency
 25 Reading: Nelson, Ch. 5, 14, 20
 27

Feb. 29 The president and Congress
 Mar. 3 Reading: Nelson, Ch. 12, 17, 19
 5

Mar. 7 Game #2: Passing a priority presidential program
 No assigned reading (Internet research instead)

Mar.10 The president and the judiciary
 Reading: Nelson, Ch. 18

SECOND QUIZ ON MARCH 10

Mar.12 The president as policymaker: foreign and domestic affairs
 14 Reading: Nelson, Ch. 21, 9
 17

FIRST PAPER DUE ON MARCH 17

Mar.19 The president and the media
 Reading: Nelson, Ch. 11

Mar.31 The president and the public
 Apr. 2 Reading: Nelson, Ch. 10

Apr. 4 Analyzing presidential elections
 Reading: Nelson, Ch. 8

Apr. 7 The election of 2008
 (No assigned reading (Internet research instead))

THIRD QUIZ ON APRIL 7

Apr. 9 Game #3: The 2008 election game: Democrat v. Republican
 11 No assigned reading (Internet research instead)

Apr.14 The development of the presidency from FDR to Carter
 16 Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 11, 12
 18

- Apr.23 The presidency of Ronald Reagan
Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 13
- Apr.25 The presidency of Bill Clinton
Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 14
- Apr.28 The presidency of George W. Bush
30 Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 15; Skowronek, Ch. 4, 5
May 2

FOURTH QUIZ ON MAY 2

- May 5 The future of the presidency
No assigned reading

SECOND PAPER DUE ON MAY 14

Grades for the course will be based on papers and quizzes. There will be four multiple-choice quizzes; your lowest score of the four will be dropped and your grade for the quizzes will be calculated based upon the other three. There will be two papers; each has a suggested length of 6-8 double-spaced pages. Topics for the papers will be handed out in class. Hard copies of the paper are required, and late papers will be penalized. Grades will be computed as follows:

quizzes - 1/3
each paper – 1/3

STUDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT ALL WORK HANDED IN MUST BE THEIR OWN. CHEATING ON QUIZZES OR PLAGIARISM ON PAPERS WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED.

Office hours: Rockefeller College Program Office (Humanities 16): MW 10:30-11:30 –
Downtown Campus (Milne 216): Wed. 1:30-3:30 and by appointment (Phone number is 442-
5273). Voicemail messages: 442 5273. Email: miroff@albany.edu