The following required books are available at either the campus bookstore or Mary Jane Books:


A few readings are on ERES (Electronic Reserve)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Jan. 23**
Introduction to the course

**Jan. 25**
The constitutional presidency

Reading: Milkis and Nelson, *The American Presidency*, Ch. 1, 2

**Jan. 28**
Game #1: Redesigning the constitutional presidency

Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Appendix (Constitution: Articles I and II, Amendments XII, XX, XXII, XXV)

Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 3

**Jan. 30**
Development of the presidency from Washington to Wilson

Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 4, 5, 6, 8

**Feb. 1**

**FIRST QUIZ ON FEB. 11**

Reading: Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist Papers*, #68, 70, 71 (ERES)

Richard E. Neustadt, “The Power to Persuade” (ERES)

Skowronek, *Presidential Leadership in Political Time*, Ch. 2, 3
Feb. 20  Presidential character and personality  
Reading: Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, Ch. 5

Feb. 22  The institutional presidency  
25  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 4, 12, 13  
27

SECOND QUIZ ON MAR. 1

Mar.  1  The president and Congress  
4  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 14, 16  
6

Mar.  8  Game #2: President vs. Congress: Obama and the House Republicans  
No assigned reading (Internet research instead)

Mar. 11  The president and the judiciary  
Reading: Nelson, Ch. 15

FIRST PAPER DUE ON MAR. 13

Mar. 13  The president as policymaker: foreign and military affairs  
25  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 17  
    Skowronek, Ch. 5

Mar. 27  The president as policymaker: economic and domestic affairs  
29  Reading: Bruce Miroff, “Domestic Policymaking: Politics and History,” (ERES)  
    Nelson, Ch. 10

Apr.  1  The president and the media  
Reading: Nelson, Ch. 9

Apr.  3  Game #3: Framing Barack Obama in the Media: Critics versus Defenders  
No assigned reading (Internet research instead)

THIRD QUIZ ON APR. 5

Apr.  5  The president and the public  
8  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 1, 8
Apr. 10  Presidential Elections
        Reading: Nelson, Ch. 6, 7

Apr. 15  Game #4: The 2012 Presidential Election Game

Apr. 17  The development of the presidency from FDR to Carter
        Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 10, 11

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Apr. 26  The presidency of Ronald Reagan
        Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 12

Apr. 29  The presidency of Bill Clinton
        Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 13

FOURTH QUIZ ON MAY 1

May 1  The presidency of George W. Bush
        Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 14
        Skowronek, Ch. 4

May 3  The presidency of Barack Obama
        Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 15
        Skowronek, Ch. 6

SECOND PAPER DUE ON MAY 15 (NO FINAL EXAM)

Grades for the course will be based on papers and quizzes. There will be four multiple-choice quizzes, with questions drawn from readings and lectures. 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 7-8 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:

Cumulative grade on quizzes - 1/3
Papers – 2/3
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 Contact Office (Humanities 16): Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30
Downtown Campus (Milne 216): Wed. 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

It is easiest to contact me by email. bmiroff@albany.edu