The following required books are available at the campus bookstore, Mary Jane Books, and from online book sellers:


A few readings are on Blackboard (BB)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Jan. 22 Introduction to the course

Jan. 24 The constitutional presidency

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

Jan. 29 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. 31 Development of the presidency from Washington to Wilson

Feb. 3 Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 4, 5, 6, 8

5

7

**FIRST QUIZ ON FEBRUARY 10**

Feb. 10 Theories of presidential leadership

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

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

17 Skowronek, *Presidential Leadership in Political Time*, Ch. 2, 3
Feb. 19   Presidential character and personality
          Reading: Nelson, ed., The Presidency and the Political System, Ch. 6

Feb. 24   The institutional presidency
          26       Reading: Nelson, Ch. 5, 13, 14
          28

SECOND QUIZ ON MARCH 3

Mar. 3    The president and Congress
          5       Reading: Nelson, Ch. 15, 17
          7

Mar. 10   Game #2: President vs. Congress: Obama and the House Republicans
          No assigned reading (Internet research instead)

Mar. 12   The president and the judiciary
          Reading: Nelson, Ch. 16

FIRST PAPER DUE ON MAR. 12

Mar. 14   The president as policymaker: foreign and military affairs
          Reading: Nelson, Ch. 19
          Skowronek, Ch. 5

Mar. 24   The president as policymaker: economic and domestic affairs
          26       Reading: Bruce Miroff, “Presidents and Economic Royalists” (BB)
          Bruce Miroff, “Domestic Policymaking: Politics and History,” (BB)

Mar. 28   The president and the media
          Reading: Nelson, Ch. 10

Mar. 31   Game #3: Framing Barack Obama in the Media: Critics versus Defenders
          No assigned reading (Internet research instead)

THIRD QUIZ ON APR. 2

Apr. 2    The president and the public
          4       Reading: Nelson, Ch. 1, 9
Apr.  7  Presidential Elections
       Reading: Nelson, Ch. 7, 8

Apr. 11 Game #4: The 2016 Presidential Election Game

Apr. 14 Development of the presidency from FDR to Carter
       Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 10, 11
       18
       23
       25

Apr. 28 The presidency of Ronald Reagan
       Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 12

FOURTH QUIZ ON APRIL 30

Apr. 30 The presidency of Bill Clinton
       Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 13

May  2 The presidency of George W. Bush
       Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 14
       Skowronek, Ch. 4

May  5 The presidency of Barack Obama
       Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 15
       Skowronek, Ch. 6

SECOND PAPER DUE ON MAY 12 (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 – 1/3 each
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 Fridays, 11:30-12:30

Downtown Campus (Milne 216): Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

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