These required books are available at the campus bookstore and from online book sellers:


A few readings are on Blackboard (BB)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Jan. 21  Introduction to the course

Jan. 23  The constitutional presidency

26  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

Feb.  2  Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 4, 5, 6, 8

4

6

**FIRST QUIZ ON FEBRUARY 9**

Feb. 9  Theories of presidential leadership

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

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

16  Skowronek, *Presidential Leadership in Political Time*, Ch. 2, 3
Feb. 18  Presidential character and personality  
Reading: Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, Ch. 6

Feb. 20  The institutional presidency  
23  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 5, 13, 14
25

**SECOND QUIZ ON FEBRUARY 25**

Feb. 27  The president and Congress  
Mar. 2  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 15, 17  
4

Mar. 6  Game #2: President vs. Congress: Obama and the Republican Majorities  
No assigned reading

**MARCH 6  FIRST PAPER DUE**

Mar. 9  The president and the judiciary  
Reading: Nelson, Ch. 16

Mar. 11  The president as policymaker: foreign and military affairs  
Reading: Nelson, Ch. 19  
Skowronek, Ch. 5

**NO CLASS ON MARCH 13**

Mar. 23  The president as policymaker: economic and domestic affairs  
25  Reading: Bruce Miroff, “Presidents and Economic Royalists” (BB)  
Bruce Miroff, “Domestic Policymaking: Politics and History,” (BB)

Mar. 27  The president and the media  
Reading: Nelson, Ch. 10

Mar. 30  Game #3: Framing Barack Obama in the Media: Critics versus Defenders  
No assigned reading

**THIRD QUIZ ON APRIL 1**

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

2
Apr.  6  Presidential Elections  
     8  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 7, 8

Apr. 10  Game #4: The 2016 Presidential Election Game: Primaries and General  
     13

Apr. 15  Development of the presidency from FDR to Carter  
     17  Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 10, 11
     20
     22

Apr. 24  The presidency of Ronald Reagan  
     Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 12

Apr. 27  The presidency of Bill Clinton  
     Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 13

FOURTH QUIZ ON APRIL 27

Apr. 29  The presidency of George W. Bush  
     Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 14  
     Skowronek, Ch. 4

May  1  The presidency of Barack Obama  
     4  Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 15
     6  Skowronek, Ch. 6

MAKEUP QUIZ ON MAY 6

SECOND PAPER DUE ON MAY 11 (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 both 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, 11:00-12:00

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

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