UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

POS 332          Bruce Miroff
The Presidency          Spring 2016

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


A few readings are on Blackboard (BB)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Jan. 20  Introduction to the course

Jan. 22  The constitutional presidency

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

Jan. 27  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. 29  Development of the presidency from Washington to Wilson

Feb.  1  Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 4, 5, 6, 8

3

5

**FIRST QUIZ ON FEBRUARY 8**

Feb.  8  Theories of presidential leadership

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

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

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

Feb. 19  The institutional presidency
       22           Reading: Nelson, Ch. 5, 13, 14
       24

SECOND QUIZ ON FEBRUARY 26

Feb. 26  The president and Congress
Feb. 29  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 15, 17
Mar. 2

Mar. 4   Game #2: President vs. Congress: Obama and the Republican Majorities
         No assigned reading

MARCH 4  FIRST PAPER DUE

Mar. 7   The president and the judiciary
         Reading: Nelson, Ch. 16

Mar. 9   The president as politician
         Reading: Miroff, “Presidents and Coalition Politics” (BB)

Mar. 11  The president as policymaker: foreign and military affairs
       21           Reading: Nelson, Ch. 19
         Miroff, “Foreign Policymaking on Partisan Ground” (BB)
         Skowronek, Ch. 5

Mar. 23  The president as policymaker: economic and domestic affairs
       25           Reading: Miroff, “Presidents and Economic Royalists” (BB)
         Miroff, “Tough Terrain: Making Domestic Policy,” (BB)

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

THIRD QUIZ ON MARCH 30

Mar. 30  The president and the public
Apr. 1   Reading: Nelson, Ch. 1, 9
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, 12:00-1:00
Downtown Campus (Milne 216): Wednesdays, 2:50-3:30 and by appointment

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