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


Additional readings are on Blackboard (BB)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Jan. 23**  Introduction to the course

**Jan. 25**  The constitutional presidency  
**27**  Reading: Milkis and Nelson, *The American Presidency*, Ch. 1, 2

**Jan. 30**  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

**Feb. 1**  Development of the presidency from Washington to Wilson

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

**Feb. 10**  Theories of presidential leadership

**13**  Reading: Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist Papers*, #68, 70, 71 (BB)  
**15**  Richard E. Neustadt, “The Power to Persuade” (BB)  
**17**  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. 6
SECOND QUIZ ON FEBRUARY 22

NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 24

Feb. 22  The institutional presidency
        27  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 5, 13, 14
Mar.  1

FIRST PAPER DUE ON MARCH 3

Mar.  3  The president and Congress
        6  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 15, 17
Mar.  8

Mar. 10  Game #2: President and Congress: Trump, Republicans, and Democrats
           No assigned reading
Mar. 20  The president and the judiciary
           Reading: Nelson, Ch. 16
Mar. 22  The president as politician
           Reading: Miroff, “Presidents and Coalition Politics” (BB)
Mar. 24  The president as policymaker: foreign and military affairs
        27  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 19
           Miroff, “Foreign Policymaking on Partisan Ground” (BB)
           Skowronek, Ch. 5
Mar. 29  The president as policymaker: economic and domestic affairs
        31  Reading: Miroff, “Presidents and Economic Royalists” (BB)
           Miroff, “Tough Terrain: Making Domestic Policy,” (BB)

THIRD QUIZ ON MARCH 31

Apr.   3  The president and the media
           Reading: Nelson, Ch. 10
Apr.  5  The president and the public
Apr.  7  Reading: Nelson, Ch. 1, 9

NO CLASS ON APRIL 10

Apr. 12  Game #3: President Trump, the Media, and Public Opinion
           No assigned reading
Apr. 14 Presidential elections  
17 Reading: Nelson, Ch. 7, 8  

Apr. 19 Development of the presidency from FDR to Carter  
21 Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 10, 11  
24  
26  

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

FOURTH QUIZ ON MAY 1  

May 1 The presidency of Bill Clinton  
Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 13  

May 3 The presidency of George W. Bush  
Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 14  
Skowronek, Ch. 4  

May 5 The presidency of Barack Obama  
8 Reading: Milkis and Nelson, Ch. 15  
Skowronek, “Barack Obama and the Promise of Transformative Leadership” (BB)  

May 10 Obama, Trump, and the future of the presidency  
No assigned reading  

MAKEUP QUIZ ON MAY 10  

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 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, 12:30-1:30

Downtown Campus (Milne 216): Wednesdays, 3:00-3:30 and by appointment

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