## Political Science 4036 The American Presidency Spring 2016

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy Office: 221 Stubbs Hall, Tu-Wed-TH 1:30-4:30 Phone: 225-578-2533 E-Mail: kmulcah@lsu.edu

### **Note: THE USE OF LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES IS PROHIBITED DURING CLASS. Note: SCANTRONS WILL BE UTILIZED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER**

### **Course Objectives**

This course is designed to provide an overview of various theories on the institution of the American Presidency. It is principally focused on the triune relationship between Domestic Affairs, Foreign Affairs and the Election Process that all successful Presidents must balance carefully. However, this course does not provide a historical survey of the presidents from Washington to Obama; it emphasizes the Office of the Presidency as an institution.

#### <u>Please note that plagiarism detectors will be utilized on all written work. Any</u> <u>detection of plagiarism will be reported to the Department Chair.</u>

### **Course Texts**

*The Politics of the Presidency* - Joseph Pika and J.A. Maltese *Theodore Roosevelt* – Louis Auchincloss *Franklin Delano Roosevelt* – Roy Jenkins *Ronald Reagan* – Jacob Weisberg

#### Grading out of 400 pts

A+: 97-100	A: 93-96	A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89	B: 83-86	B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79	C: 73-76	C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69	D: 63-66	D-: 60-62

F: 59>below

- Three non-cumulative exams on the dates assigned- 55 pts each/ total 165 pts
  - Exams will include **multiple choice** and **essay questions**, each will cover lecture material, textbook readings, and <u>in class videos</u>.
- Three biography tests, which will be on the dates assigned- **15 pts each/ total 45 pts**

- **Up to 11** randomly- given quizzes on the movies/ Pika chapters **5 pts each/ total 55 pts**
- Three papers 5 pages- 45 pts each/ 135 pts

#### • Paper Requirements

- Late papers will be penalized 20% each day that it is late.
- Each of the presidents whose biographies you have read had transformative policies. What was their political background? What was their record as president? Discuss any notable achievements. Evaluate their transformative politics.
- It is essential that the responses be presented clearly, concisely, and with very frequent, extensive in-text citations [ex. (Greenstein, 58)]. Citations are to be drawn exclusively from lecture material, video, and texts.
- What is **not** desired is a series of facts about presidents; **analysis is necessary**.
  Papers should be double- spaced, Times New Roman font; 1" Top, bottom and side margins, and include page numbers. The papers should be at least 5 pages in length **and a cover page**. A reference page is not necessary

### **Class Attendance**

1/21

- Class participation is expected & required. As attendance is the *sine qua non* of participation, more than **two** absences will result in a letter-grade reduction of your final course grade.
- Be a good citizen about arriving on time and staying for the entire class.
- Arriving late and /or leaving class early is only allowed in the case of a dire emergency **and only after prior consultation and approval from the instructor.**

#### **Graduate Students / Law Students**

If you are a graduate student or Law school student – please see me @ 221 Stubbs Hall within the first 2 weeks of the semester.

## **Course Outline**

1/14Syllabus DayPart I: The Office of the President1/19Introduction; discussion of syllabusEvolution of the Presidency IPika Chapter 6

Evolution of the Presidency II

1/22	Final day to drop without receiving "W"
1/26	Presidential Character and Greatness I
	Pika Chapter 4
1/28	Presidential Character and Greatness II
2/2	Thirteen Days
2/4	Thirteen Days continued
	Test on Theodore Roosevelt biography
2/8 - 2/10	Mardi Gras Break
2/11	Thirteen Days conclusion
	President's Constitutional "Hats"
	Theodore Roosevelt Paper Due
2/16	The President and Congress
	Pika Chapter 5
2/18	EVAM 1. Consisting of
2/18	EXAM 1: Consisting of:
	Part 1 Lectures
	Thirteen Days movie
	Pika Readings

# Part II- Being President

2/23	Organization of the Federal Government
	Pika Chapter 8
	The Federal Budget
2/25	Foreign and Defense Policy
3/1	National Security Advisory Process
	Presidency in the Cold War I
	Pika Chapter 10
3/3	Presidency in the Cold War II
	Test on Franklin Delano Roosevelt Biography
3/8	Presidency in the Post- 9/11 World I
	Pika Chapter 11
	Franklin Delano Roosevelt Paper Due
3/10	Presidency in the Post- 9/11 World II
	Reflections on the Current World Order
3/15	The Unknown Known

3/17	The Unknown Known conclusion/ discussion	
3/20 – 3/28	Spring Break	
3/29	EXAM 2:	
	Lectures	
	Pika readings	
Part III: Becoming the President of the United States		
3/31	Nomination Process I	
	Pika Chapter 2	
4/5	Nomination Process II	
	Convention I	
4/7	Convention II	
	Pika Chapter 1	
	Test on Ronald Reagan Biography	
4/12	The Fog of War	
	Ronald Reagan Paper Due	
4/14	The Fog of War conclusion/discussion	
	Campaign I	

	12:30 pm- 2:30 pm
	Pika Readings
	Lectures
5/4	Final EXAM 3:
	Pika Chapter 11
4/28	The Electoral College
	Pika Chapter 3
4/26	2008 Democratic Selection Process
	2000 Election (Bush vs. Gore)
4/21	The Campaign II
4/19	Maya Lin: The Controversy over her Vietnam Wall Design