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PSC 366.01: American Presidency

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Course Title: PSC 366 - American Presidency
Semester: Fall 2007
Course Hours: Tuesday/Thursday from 8:10am-9:30am
Course Room: Liberal Arts 337
Instructor: Jeffrey Doyle
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2pm-3:25pm or by appointment
E-mail: Jeffrey.Doyle@mso.umt.edu
Course Web-Site: TBA

Course Description:

Catalogue Description:

The constitutional foundation and evolution of the executive branch, the structure of the office and executive functions and powers.

Course Objectives:

This semester, we will be exploring the evolution of the American Presidency. From its Constitutional beginnings, the American president as it is today. While the Presidency was created to be subservient to Congress, the office has grown in power and stature. With this in mind, this course will trace the evolution of the presidency from its "constitutional" foundations to its present-day condition. Along the way we shall examine the president's relations with Congress, the Courts, and Bureaucracy.

Teaching Methods:

This course is a mixture of lecture, participation and discussion. I look forward to your questions and debates over lecture topics. Be sure to complete the assigned reading before each class; otherwise, you will be unable to take complete notes and participate in all discussions. While lectures will cover the general topics, lectures and reading material are meant to complement each other rather than repeat each other; thus, attendance is critical.

Required Course Materials

Assigned Readings:

Jeffrey Cohen and David Nice, *The Presidency*. McGraw-Hill, 2003.
George C. Edwards III, *Readings in Presidential Politics*. Thomson, 2006.
Other assigned readings found on course web-site

Other Course Requirements:

Two examination blue booklets for mid-term and final examination.

Expectations, Assignments and Grading

Grading:

Your grade in this course will be based on the following components:

1. Quizzes (15%)
2. Reaction Paper (25%)
3. Midterm Exam (25%)
4. Final Exam (35%)

Grading scale:

A	100 -93.0%
A-	92.9-90.0%
B+	89.9-87.0%
B	86.9-83.0%
B-	82.9-80.0%
C+	79.9-77.0%
C	76.9-73.0%
C-	72.9-70.0%
D+	69.9-67.0%
D	66.9-63.0%
D-	62.9-60.0%
F	59% and below

Quizzes:

Five quizzes will be administered during the semester, of which the lowest grade is dropped. Make-up quizzes will not be offered. These quizzes will consist of a three to four short questions based on the readings/lectures and will be completed during the first or last 15 minutes of the class. I reserve the right to administer quizzes on any day with no advance notice. Quizzes will be closed book and may cover material from the assigned readings or from previous lectures. Since there is no specific attendance component to your course grade, quizzes ensure that you come to every class prepared.

Presidency Paper:

Everyone will be required to complete a writing assignment to allow you to further reflect upon selected topics from this course. This paper should be approximately 7-10 pages in length in a typed, double-spaced format with standard margins. We will discuss the requirements for this paper during week two of the course. *Keep in mind that your grade on this paper will be penalized if there are grammatical or spelling errors in the completed paper.*

Exams:

There will be a midterm and a final exam in this course. Exams are closed book and will include a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The final exam is cumulative and will include material covered in all of the course lectures and assigned readings. *Note: An examination booklet will be required for these two examinations; blue books can be purchased at the university book store.*

Tardiness:

I will start class on time and expect that you will be there. Occasionally you may find it necessary to be late. In that case, I would certainly prefer that you come to class late rather than miss the entire lecture. However, tardiness must never develop into a pattern. *Note: If you are late during a day that a quiz has been given and thus have missed the quiz, a makeup quiz will not be administered. If you come in during the middle of a quiz, no extra time will be allotted to you for its completion.*

Make-Up Policy:

Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., a university-sanctioned activity, religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be accepted **prior** to the exam when feasible. The make up for the mid-term will be scheduled at 9:30am October 23rd. The presidency paper will not be accepted late, no exceptions; as you have an entire semester to complete it.

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

All students in this course are expected to follow the University of Montana's Student Conduct Code. The code can be located here:

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>

Those found in violation of the code will face academic penalties from the course instructor, the department or the university.

Final Note:

This syllabus is subject to change as the semester progresses. Some topics may take longer to discuss while other may not take an entire course period to discuss. This creates the need for the syllabus to change as the course changes. The changes will either be moving readings up or pushing readings back in the schedule. Two dates from this syllabus are set in stone; those are the mid-term and the reaction paper. In order to keep up with any changes that may occur in the course, you must attend class every time.

Course Calendar:**August**

28th **Introduction to Course**
 Discuss Syllabus

30th **No class**

September

4th **The Presidency and the Constitution pt 1**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 1
 Federalist Papers 69 and 70 (On Web-Page)

6th **The Presidency and the Constitution pt 2**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 2
 Constitution: Defining the Office of the President (On Web-Page)
 Reaction Paper requirements Discussed (End of Class)

11th **The Evolution of the Presidency**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 3

13th **The Presidential Selection Process pt. 1**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 4

November

- 1st **The President and the Bureaucracy**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 11
 Edwards Ch. 12
- 6th **Institutional Presidency**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 9
- 8th **Policy Choices of the President**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 13
- 13th **The President and Foreign Policy pt. 1**
Readings: Nice and Cohen pg. 433-448
 The Electoral Cycle and the Conduct of Foreign Policy
 Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 101, No. 5. (Link on Web-Page)
- 15th **The President and Foreign Policy pt. 2**
Readings: Nice and Cohen pg. 448-465
- 20th **The President and the Economy pt. 1**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 14
 Reaction paper due at beginning of class
- 22nd **Thanksgiving Vacation**
- 27th **The President and the Economy pt. 2**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 14 Continued
- 29th **Evaluating the President**
Readings: Nice and Cohen Ch. 5

December

- 4th **Overflow Day**
 Reaction Papers Returned
- 6th **Review and Course Wrap-up**
- 13th *****Final Examination*****
 10:10-12:10 in Liberal Arts Room 337
 BRING A EXAMINATION BOOKLET