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PSC 366.01: American Presidency

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PS 366
Fall 2006 LA 337
T, Th 8:10-9:30

Professor Gregory Koger Office: LA 354 Hours: Mon. 2-4 p.m. & by appt
Gregory.Koger@umontana.edu

Course Topics

This class examines the development and power of the modern Presidency. This includes the process for selecting Presidents, the historical development of the Presidency, the President's relationship with the public, the media, and Congress, and the President's role in budget and foreign policy.

Course Texts

There is one central textbook: *Presidential Leadership* by Edwards and Wayne, 7th edition. In addition, there are articles listed in the syllabus and news items I will distribute as opportunity arises. I will distribute both the articles and news stories by e-mail.

Course Grading

Grades are based on class participation (20%), one midterm (20%), a research paper (30%), and a cumulative final (30%). Papers are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized a full grade for each day late.

Course Rituals

Every class we will begin by discussing recent Presidential news. You are strongly encouraged to follow political events using some combination of local newspapers, news websites, and cable TV news. You are expected to read the readings before coming to class. If this obligation is neglected, I may ask students to summarize readings for the class.

Week	Topics	Readings
Aug. 29	Introduction to the Class	
Aug. 31	No Class—read ahead	
Sept. 5 & 7	The Constitutional Presidency. Nominations (start)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalist Papers 68-73 • EW 2
Sept. 12 & 14	Campaign Finance. Presidential Nominations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Busch, "The Rise and Fall of the Rocky Mountain Primary." PS April 2003. ▪ Mayer, "Forecasting Presidential Nominations," PS April 2003. ▪ Bernstein & Dominguez, "Candidates and Candidacies in the Extended Parties." PS April 2003.
Sept. 19, 21	Presidential Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EW 3 ▪ CRS Report: "The Electoral College: How it Works in Contemporary Presidential Elections"
Sept 26&28	Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitions: Burke, Kumar, both from PS March 2002
Oct 3&5	The White House	EW 6
Oct 10 & 12	Presidents and Public Opinion	EW 4
Oct 17, 19	Presidents and the Media	EW 5
Oct. 24	Review Session	
Oct. 26	Midterm	
Oct. 31, Nov 2	Domestic Policy Making	EW 12
Nov. 9, 14, 16	Presidents and Congress	EW 10, EW 510-512
Nov. 21	Presidential Mercy	EW 512; Federalist #74
Nov. 23	THANKSGIVING	
Nov. 28&30	Presidents and Exec Branch	EW 9; pp 500-503
Dec. 5, 7	Presidents and Foreign Policy	EW 14, 503-510; Federalist #75
Dec. 11	Final, 10:10 to 12:10	