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PSC 366.01: American Presidency

Gregory Koger

The University Of Montana, gregory.kroger@umontana.edu

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PS 366 U.S. Presidency
Fall 2005 LA 337

Professor Gregory Koger
gregory.koger@umontana.edu

Office: LA 354

Phone: 243-4418

Office Hours: Wed. 9-11:30 & by appt.

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 are two class texts: *Politics Presidents Make* (PPM) by Stephen Skowronek and *The Presidential Agenda* by Paul Light. In addition, there are articles and news items listed in the syllabus available on reserve at the library.

Course Grading

Grades are based on class participation (20%), one midterm (20%), one research paper (25% for the paper, 5% for the presentation), 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.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics
Aug. 30	Introduction.
Sept. 1	No Class. Read ahead!
Sept. 6 & 8	Introduction to Skowronek. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Politics Presidents Make</i> 1-58.
Sept. 13 & 15	The Constitutional Presidency. The Electoral College. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Rossiter, <i>The American Presidency</i>, ch. 1▪ CRS Report: "The Electoral College: How it Works in Contemporary Presidential Elections"
Sept. 20, 22	Presidential Nominations. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CRS Report: "Presidential Elections in the United States: A Primer"▪ Bernstein & Dominguez, "Candidates and Candidacies in the Extended Parties." PS April 2003.▪ Busch, "The Rise and Fall of the Rocky Mountain Primary." PS April

	2003. ▪ Mayer, "Forecasting Presidential Nominations," PS April 2003.
Sept 27 & 29	Presidential Elections ▪ Daron Shaw, "The Method Behind the Madness," JOP, Nov. 1999. ▪ Daron Shaw, "The Effects of TV Ads and Candidate Appearances on Statewide Presidential Votes, 1988-1996," APSR, June 1999.
Oct 4 & 6	No Class
Oct 11	Midterm
Oct 13	The Institutional Presidency. Transitions. ▪ Ragsdale and Theis, "Institutionalization of the American Presidency." ▪ Burke, Kumar, both from PS March 2002
Oct. 18&20	Skowronek, Past to Present. ▪ PPM 407-448 ▪ Edwards PS March 2002
Oct. 25 & 27	Presidents and the Media ▪ "Cooking Up The Word Stew," W. Post 1/19/1999 ▪ "Polling Flourished During Clinton Presidency" W. Post, 12/31/2000 ▪ MJ Kumar, "News Organizations as a Presidential Resource in Governing," from <i>New Challenges For the American Presidency</i> . ▪ Summary of Shotts & Canes-Wrone from <i>Stanford Business Magazine</i> , Aug. 2004.
Nov. 1 & 3	Presidential Agenda Setting I: Resources and Strategy Light, <i>President's Agenda</i> 1-103
Nov. 8 & 10	Agenda Setting II: Presidents and Congress ▪ Light, <i>President's Agenda</i> 104-232 ▪ Edwards, "Strategic Choices..." PS March 2002 "Bush Watches as Battles Are Lost in Struggle for His Domestic Agenda," CQWR, 3/29/2003
Nov. 15 & 17 & 22	Presidents and the Bureaucracy--size, executive orders, pardons, budgets ▪ Mayer, "Executive Orders and Presidential Power," JOP, May 1999. ▪ CRS, "The Executive Budget Process Timetable" ▪ CRS, "The Role of the President in Budget Development" → <i>Skowronek Paper Due</i>
Nov. 24	<i>Thanksgiving—Holiday!</i>
Nov. 29 Dec. 1	Foreign Policy Decision Making Pfiffner, "George W. Bush: Policy, Politics, and Personality." Mackenzie, "Old Wars, New Wars, and the American Presidency." - both from <i>New Challenges for the American Presidency</i>
Dec. 6, 8	Skowronek Presentations
Dec. 14	Final 10:10 – 12:10