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Fall 9-1-2004

### PSC 366.01: American Presidency

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PS 366  
Fall 2004 LA 337  
T, Th 8:10-9:30

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### 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 three class texts: *Politics Presidents Make* (PPM) by Stephen Skowronek, *The Presidential Agenda* by Paul Light, and *Bush at War* by Bob Woodward. 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 (10%), two short presentations, (5% each), two short papers (25% each), 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. 31	<b>Introduction.</b>
Sept. 2	<b>No Class. Read ahead!</b>
Sept. 7 & 9	<b>The Constitutional Presidency. The Electoral College.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Rossiter, <i>The American Presidency</i>, ch. 1</li><li>▪ CRS Report: "The Electoral College: How it Works in Contemporary Presidential Elections"</li></ul>
Sept. 14 & 16	<b>Presidential Nominations.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ CRS Report: "Presidential Elections in the United States: A Primer"</li><li>▪ Bernstein &amp; Dominguez, "Candidates and Candidacies in the Extended Parties." PS April 2003.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Busch, "The Rise and Fall of the Rocky Mountain Primary." PS April 2003.</li> <li>▪ Mayer, "Forecasting Presidential Nominations," PS April 2003.</li> </ul>
Sept. 21, 23	<b>Presidential Elections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Daron Shaw, "The Method Behind the Madness," JOP, Nov. 1999.</li> <li>▪ Daron Shaw, "The Effects of TV Ads and Candidate Appearances on Statewide Presidential Votes, 1988-1996," APSR, June 1999.</li> </ul>
Sept 28 & 30	<b>Election Forecasts. Presentations of Election Predictions.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Norpoth; Holbrooke; both from PS, March 2001</li> </ul>
Oct 5 & 7	<b>The Institutional Presidency. Transitions.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ragsdale and Theis, "Institutionalization of the American Presidency."</li> <li>▪ Burke, Kumar, both from PS March 2002</li> </ul> <b>→ Election Memo due Oct. 7.</b>
Oct 12 & 14	<b>Introduction to Skowronek.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Politics Presidents Make</i> 1-58.</li> </ul>
Oct. 19&21	<b>Skowronek, Past to Present.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PPM 407-448</li> <li>▪ Edwards PS March 2002</li> </ul>
Oct. 26 & 28	<b>Presidents and the Media</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Cooking Up The Word Stew," W. Post 1/19/1999</li> <li>▪ "Polling Flourished During Clinton Presidency" W. Post, 12/31/2000</li> <li>▪ MJ Kumar, "News Organizations as a Presidential Resource in Governing," from <i>New Challenges For the American Presidency</i>.</li> <li>▪ Summary of Shotts &amp; Canes-Wrone from <i>Stanford Business Magazine</i>, Aug. 2004.</li> </ul> <b>Skowronek Paper Due Oct 26.</b>
Nov. 2	<i>Election—HOLIDAY!</i>
Nov. 4&9	<b>Presidential Agenda Setting I: Resources and Strategy</b> <i>Light, President's Agenda</i> 1-103
Nov. 11	<i>Veteran's Day</i>
Nov. 16 & 18	<b>Agenda Setting II: Presidents and Congress</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Light, President's Agenda</i> 104-232</li> <li>▪ Edwards, "Strategic Choices..." PS March 2002</li> </ul> <b>"Bush Watches as Battles Are Lost in Struggle for His Domestic Agenda," CQWR, 3/29/2003</b>
Nov. 23	<b>Presidents and the Bureaucracy--size, executive orders, pardons, budgets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mayer, "Executive Orders and Presidential Power," JOP, May 1999.</li> <li>▪ CRS, "The Executive Budget Process Timetable"</li> <li>▪ CRS, "The Role of the President in Budget Development"</li> </ul>
Nov. 25	<i>Thanksgiving—Holiday!</i>
Nov. 30	<b>Foreign Policy Decision Making I</b>
Dec. 2	<i>Bush at War</i> , 1-109
Dec. 7, 9	<b>Foreign Policy Decision Making II</b> <i>Bush at War</i> , 110-169; Epilogue
Dec. 17	<b>Final (10:10-12:10)</b>