Fall 9-1-2004

PSC 366.01: American Presidency

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td><strong>Introduction.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td><strong>No Class. Read ahead!</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Sept. 7 & 9| **The Constitutional Presidency. The Electoral College.**  
- Rossiter, The American Presidency, ch. 1  
| Sept. 14 & 16 | **Presidential Nominations.**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 28 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Election Forecasts. Presentations of Election Predictions.</td>
<td>Norpoth; Holbrooke; both from PS, March 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Burke, Kumar, both from PS March 2002  
→ Election Memo due Oct. 7. |
| Oct. 12 & 14 | Introduction to Skowronek. | |
| Oct. 19 & 21 | Skowronek, Past to Present. | PPM 407-448  
Edwards PS March 2002 |
“Polling Flourished During Clinton Presidency” W. Post, 12/31/2000  
MJ Kumar, “News Organizations as a Presidential Resource in Governing,” from *New Challenges For the American Presidency*.  
| Nov. 2 | Election—HOLIDAY! | |
| Nov. 4 & 9 | Presidential Agenda Setting I: Resources and Strategy | Light, *President’s Agenda* 1-103 |
| Nov. 11 | Veteran’s Day | |
| Nov. 16 & 18 | Agenda Setting II: Presidents and Congress | Light, *President’s Agenda* 104-232  
Edwards, “Strategic Choices…” PS March 2002  
“Bush Watches as Battles Are Lost in Struggle for His Domestic Agenda,” CQWR, 3/29/2003 |
CRS, “The Executive Budget Process Timetable”  
CRS, “The Role of the President in Budget Development” |
| Nov. 25 | Thanksgiving—Holiday! | |
| Nov. 30 | Foreign Policy Decision Making I | *Bush at War*, 1-109 |
| Dec. 2 | Foreign Policy Decision Making II | *Bush at War*, 110-169; Epilogue |
| Dec. 17 | Final (10:10-12:10) | |