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Fall 9-1-2002

### PSC 366.01: American Presidency

Meg Corwin

*The University Of Montana*

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PSC 366 – The American Presidency  
Fall 2002, LA 337  
10:10-11:00 MWF

Instructor:	Meg Corwin	Office: LA354
Office Hours:	MW, 11:15-12:30, 4:15-5:00, or by appointment	Phone: 243-4418 Email: mcorwin@selway.umt.edu

Most of us see the president as the center of American politics, and we expect a lot. We want a strong leader who can fix everything, but are wary of allowing one person to have too much power. We want a leader who is self-confident, without being arrogant; bright, but not too bright. We want our presidents to provide charismatic leadership, rise above 'politics' and have the vision to govern in the best interests of everyone, yet we also demand they be responsive to the popular 'will of the people'. Given these high and often contradictory expectations, how can any President practice successful leadership? This is the underlying theme of this course.

During this semester, we will examine the institutional context of presidential leadership, and the ways in which presidents' personalities and political conditions combine to both expand and constrain the parameters for executive leadership and governance. During the second half of the term, we will explore the dynamics of the interaction between the president and his various constituencies found in Congress, the executive bureaucracy, and the public. Our goal is to identify the elements of presidential leadership discussed earlier in the semester to see what works and what doesn't.

Required texts:

- Edwards, George C. and Stephen J. Wayne. 2003. *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Lowi, Theodore. 1985. *The Personal President: Power Invested, Promise Unfulfilled*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Pfiffner, James P. and Roger H. Davidson, eds. 1997. *Understanding the Presidency*. New York: Longman Press.

Required Readings on Reserve in Mansfield Library:

- Neusdadt, Richard. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. chs. 1-5.

CLASS POLICIES: This class will require a lot of reading and preparation. You will be

expected to attend class and be able to participate in class discussion. To that end, my attendance policy is as follows: You will be allowed 3 unexcused absences. Every absence after that will result in the lowering of your final grade by 10 points.

I will not accept late assignments. You will have ample notice of due dates. Plan ahead. If your hard drive dies at midnight the day before the assignment is due, that is no excuse. Do your assignments far enough in advance to give yourself room to maneuver.

Your grade will be based on the following:

Two short (5-7 page) take-home midterm exams	20% each
12-15 page research paper	25%
Notebook of reading summaries	15%
Take-home final exam (5-7 pages)	20%

Grades will be assigned according to the standard +/- grading system.

**Important Dates:**

- 9/18 – Paper proposals due, end of class period.
- 10/7 - First midterm exam distributed – due 10/11, 11 am.
- 11/8 – Second midterm exam distributed – due 11/13, 11 am.
- 11/11 – Veterans' Day Holiday – no classes.
- 11/27-11/29 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no classes.
- 12/2 – Research papers due.
- 12/13 - Final exam distributed – due 12/18, no later than 11:00 am.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

I. Defining the Presidency – Constitutional and Historical Roots (9/4-9/20)

Assigned: E&W – Ch. 1  
P&D - Readings 1,3,4,5,10  
P&D – Readings 6,7,8,9

II. Sources of Power and Opportunities for Leadership (9/23-10/18)

The Institutional Presidency – Constraint and Opportunity

Assigned: Lowi – All

The Personal Presidency – Scaling the Institutional Walls

Assigned: Neusdadt – Chs. 1-5 (on reserve)  
E&W – Ch. 8  
P&D – Reading 45

III. Presidential Success: Getting Elected (10/21-11/4)

The President and the Public – Image and Substance, Part I

Assigned: E&W – Chs. 4&5  
P&D – Readings 15&19

Presidential Campaigns – Image and Substance, Part II

Assigned: E&W – Chs. 2&3  
P&D – Readings 11,13,14

IV. The President in Government: Role and Strategy (11/6-12/13)

The Executive Office and the Bureaucracy – Evolution and Change

Assigned: E&W – Chs. 6,7&9  
P&D – Readings 20-24

The President and Congress – Conflict and Cooperation

Assigned: E&W – Ch. 10  
P&D – Readings 35, 37 & 38

The President and Domestic Policy- Roping a Herd of Elephants

Assigned: E&W – Ch. 12&13  
P&D – Readings 25, 26 & 28

Evaluating Presidents – Leadership, Followership and Abuse of Power

Assigned: P&D – Readings 40, 41, 43 & 44