

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

---

Spring 2-1-2010

### PSC 346.01: American Presidency

Robert P. Saldin

*University of Montana*, [robert.saldin@umontana.edu](mailto:robert.saldin@umontana.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Saldin, Robert P., "PSC 346.01: American Presidency" (2010). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 7008.  
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7008>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

**American Presidency**  
University of Montana  
Political Science 346  
Tues, Thurs 11:10 – 12:30; Liberal Arts 337  
Spring 2010

Robert Saldin  
robert.saldin@umontana.edu  
(406) 243-4418

Office: Liberal Arts 354  
Office Hours: TuTh 10-11  
& 3:30-4:00

**Course Description**

This course addresses the constitutional role and historical development of the American Presidency. We will also examine the theoretical explanations of the institution's relationship to democratic government, the separation of powers, and the expansion of national administrative power. This broad understanding of the historical and theoretical presidency will inform our consideration of current events and the 2008 presidential election.

**Required Texts and Other Readings**

The following book is required and is available at the University Bookstore:

- Sidney Milkis and Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency: Origins and Development*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., CQ Press, 2008.

Other readings can be accessed on the internet at the addresses listed on this syllabus or will be posted on the course's Blackboard website. Blackboard readings are designated on the syllabus as: "(BB)." Contact me if you are not familiar with Blackboard.

The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or alter course readings as needed.

**Requirements and Grading**

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Midterm:                          | 25% |
| Paper:                            | 30% |
| Final Exam:                       | 35% |
| Participation (including debate): | 10% |

Exams: The Midterm Exam will be administered in class on Tuesday, March 16. The Final Exam will be held on Tuesday, May 11 from 8:10 – 10:10. Exams may include a combination of multiple choice, identification, short answer, and essay questions. Makeup exams will only be permitted if I have been notified *prior* to the missed exam and only if I agree that the absence

was necessitated by a serious, documented emergency. Check your calendar now to make sure you do not have anything that conflicts with the exams.

Paper: Select two memoirs written by administration officials of a modern or contemporary president. Both memoirs must come from the same administration. Your paper should go beyond merely describing the two memoirs. Rather, in a 6 – 8 page, double-spaced paper with 1-inch margins and standard 12 point font, you should offer a critical analysis and comparison of the interpretations and the events themselves. We will discuss this assignment in more detail in class. Hard copies of papers are due at the start of class on Thursday, April 29. Extensions will be available only for illness or serious family circumstance, and then only with *advance* permission. Papers will be marked down half a letter grade for each day they are late.

Participation: Much of our class time will be spent discussing the course readings. Consequently, both quantity and quality of class participation will be very important. Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings before each class meeting and come to class prepared to discuss the material. Daily attendance will be taken and factored into participation grades. Students missing more than ¼ of our class meetings will not pass the course. In addition, each student will participate in a group-based deliberative, formal, cross-examination policy debate. We will discuss the debates in more detail in class.

Grades: Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

|            |            |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| A 93-100   | B+ 87-89.9 | C+ 77-79.9 | D+ 67-69.9 | F below 60 |
| A- 90-92.9 | B 83-86.9  | C 73-76.9  | D 63-66.9  |            |
|            | B- 80-82.9 | C- 70-72.9 | D- 60-62.9 |            |

\*\*\*\* All three exams, the paper, and the debate must be completed in order to pass the course.\*\*\*\*

### **PSC 400 Writing Projects**

Students may enroll in PSCI 400, Advanced Writing in Political Science (1 credit), in conjunction with this course. *This opportunity is strictly optional and has absolutely no influence on your performance in, or grade for, the larger course.* Students enrolled in this co-requisite option must meet with the instructor prior to starting their project to discuss its aim, scope, sources, and style.

### **Academic Honesty**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available online at <http://life.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>. I take academic honesty very seriously, and will do my utmost to prevent, uncover, and penalize any form of cheating. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about academic honesty.

## **DSS Students**

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations on exams, papers, or other course requirements must contact DSS in order to arrange for and provide me with a letter of approval for accommodations at least one week prior to the first exam. DSS is in Lommasson Center 154.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **PART I: CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **Week 1, Jan. 26 & 28: Introduction**

James W. Ceaser, *Presidential Selection*, Introduction (BB)  
Thomas E. Cronin and Michael A. Genovese, *Paradoxes of the American Presidency*,  
Chapter 1 (BB)  
*Debating the Presidency*, selected debate (BB)

#### **Week 2, Feb. 2 & 4: The Founding and Constitutional Framework, Part I**

Milkis/Nelson, Chapters 1 and 2  
The Federalist Papers, Nos. 10 and 51 (1787-8) (BB)

#### **Week 3, Feb. 9 & 11: The Founding and Constitutional Framework, Part II**

The Federalist Papers, Nos. 69 and 70 (1787-8) (BB)  
Letters of Cato, Nos. 4 and 5 (1787-8) (BB)  
James W. Ceaser, "Demagoguery, Statesmanship, and the American Presidency,"  
*Critical Review* 19:2-3 (2007) (BB)  
Garrett Epps, "The Founders' Great Mistake," *The Atlantic* (Jan. 2009) (BB)  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200901/founders-mistake>

#### **Week 4, Feb. 16 & 18: Debating and Establishing Presidential Powers**

Milkis/Nelson, Chapters 3 and 4  
Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power*, Chapter 2 (BB)  
James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, The Pacificus-Helvidius Letters (1793-4) (BB)  
George Washington "Farewell Address" (1796) (BB)  
Thomas Jefferson "First Inaugural" (1801) (BB)

### **PART II: THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESIDENCY**

#### **Week 5: Feb. 23 & 25: The Presidency and Democracy: Jackson and Lincoln**

Milkis/Nelson, Chapters 5, 6, and 7  
Andrew Jackson, "First Inaugural" (1829) (BB)  
Andrew Jackson, "Veto of the Bank Bill" (1832) (BB)

Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address (1865) (BB)

**Week 6, Mar. 2 & 4: Crisis and Executive Power**

**\*\*\*\*CLASS WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK\*\*\*\***

Abraham Lincoln, "Special Message to Congress" (1861) (BB)

Abraham Lincoln, "Letter to Erastus Corning and Others" (1863) (BB)

*Ex Parte Milligan* (1866) (BB)

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Order 9066 (1942) (BB)

*Korematsu v. United States* (1944) (BB)

George W. Bush, "Military Order - Detention, Treatment and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism," (2001) (BB)

Eliot A. Cohen, "World War IV," *Wall Street Journal* (2001), (BB)

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=95001493>

Alan M. Dershowitz, "Military Justice is to Justice as Military Music is to Music," *Village Voice* (2001) (BB), <http://www.villagevoice.com/2001-11-20/news/military-justice-is-to-justice-as-military-music-is-to-music/1>

**Week 7, Mar. 9 & 11: Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and the "Modern Presidency"**

Milkis/Nelson, Chapters 8 and 9

Jeffrey K. Tulis, "The Two Constitutional Presidencies" (BB)

Teddy Roosevelt's and William Howard Taft's theories of Presidential Power (BB)

David K. Nichols, *The Myth of the Modern Presidency*, Introduction (BB)

**Week 8, Mar. 16 & 18: Franklin Roosevelt, Liberalism, and "Political Time"**

\*\*\*\*Midterm Exam: Tuesday, Mar. 16\*\*\*\* (including everything through last week's readings)

Milkis/Nelson, Chapters 10 and 11

Franklin Roosevelt, "Commonwealth Club Address" (1932) (BB)

Stephen Skowronek, "Presidential Leadership in Political Time" (BB)

**Week 9, Mar. 23 & 25: The President as Party Leader and Legislator: LBJ, the Great Society, and Vietnam**

Milkis/Nelson, Chapter 12

Lyndon Johnson, "Great Society Speech" (1964) (BB)

Lyndon Johnson, "We Shall Overcome" (1965) (BB)

Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*, selections (BB)

**Spring Break, Mar. 30 & Apr. 1**

**Week 10, Apr. 6 & 8: Ronald Reagan and the Presidency in a Conservative Era**

Milkis/Nelson, Chapters 13, 14, and 15

Ronald Reagan, "First Inaugural" (1981) (BB)

Peggy Noonan, *What I Saw at the Revolution: A Political Life in the Reagan Era*,

selections (BB)  
Sean Wilentz, *The Age of Reagan*, selections (BB)

### **PART III: TODAY'S PRESIDENCY**

#### **Week 11, Apr. 13 & 15: The George W. Bush Presidency, Part I**

George W. Bush, "Acceptance Speech," 2000 Republican National Convention (BB)  
George W. Bush, "First Inaugural Address" (2001) (BB)  
Sidney M. Milkis and Jesse H. Rhodes, "George W. Bush, the Republican Party, and the 'New' American Party System," *Perspectives on Politics* (2007), 461-88 (BB).

#### **Week 12, Apr. 20 & 22: The George W. Bush Presidency, Part II**

George W. Bush, "The Bush Doctrine" speech at West Point (2002) (BB)  
George W. Bush, "Second Inaugural Address" (2005) (BB)  
Tony Blair, "A Battle for Global Values," *Foreign Affairs* (Jan./Feb. 2007) (BB)  
<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20070101faessay86106/tony-blair/a-battle-for-global-values.html>  
George Packer, *The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq*, Chapter 1 (BB)  
Douglas Feith, *War and Decision*, Chapter 16 (BB)

#### **Week 13, Apr. 27 & 29: The Barack Obama Candidacy**

\*\*\*\*Paper Due: Thursday, April 29 in class\*\*\*\*

Barack Obama, "Keynote Address," 2004 Democratic National Convention (BB)  
Andrew Sullivan, "Goodbye to All That: Why Obama Matters," *The Atlantic*, (2007) (BB) <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200712/obama>  
Barack Obama, "A More Perfect Union," Philadelphia, March 18, 2008 (BB)  
Paul M. Sniderman and Edward H. Stiglitz, "Race and the Moral Character of the Modern American Experience," *The Forum* 6:4 (2008) (BB)

#### **Week 14, May 4 & 6: The Barack Obama Presidency**

**\*\*\*\*CLASS WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK\*\*\*\***

Barack Obama, "First Inaugural Address" (2009) (BB)  
Barack Obama, Cairo speech (June, 2009) (BB)  
Barack Obama, Afghanistan Speech at West Point (Dec. 2009) (BB)  
Barack Obama, "State of the Union Address" (Jan. 2010) (BB)

**Final Exam: Tuesday, May 11 from 8:10 – 10:10**