

One who asks law to rule, therefore, seems to be asking god and intellect alone to rule, while one who asks man adds the beast. Desire is a thing of this sort; and spiritedness perverts rulers and the best of men. Hence law is reason without appetite.... [But] when it happens that a whole family, or even some one person among the rest, is so outstanding in virtue that this virtue is more preeminent than that of all the rest, it is just in that case that the family be a kingly one and have authority over all matters, or that this one person be a king.

—Aristotle, *Politics* 1287a-1288a

Many things there are, which the Law can by no means provide for, and those must necessarily be left to the discretion of him, who has the Executive Power in his hands, to be ordered by him, as the publick good and advantage shall require: nay, 'tis fit that the Laws themselves should in some Cases give way to the Executive Power, or rather to this Fundamental Law of Nature and Government, *viz.* That as much as may be, *all* the members of the Society are to be *preserved*.

—John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*. II.159

Political Science 4036
The American Presidency
Spring 2017

Instructor: James Stoner <poston@lsu.edu>
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Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:00;
Wednesdays, 4:00-5:30, and by appointment

Course requirements:

- Regular attendance for the entire class period [deductions for unexcused absence]
- Daily quizzes on the reading [20%]
- Midterm examination, on February 22 [20%]
- 1500/2000-word paper on a president's speeches and deeds: topic due January 16; research by the appropriate class; papers due nine days later [30%]
- Final examination, May 3 [30%]

Graduate Students and Honors Option:

- 1000-word papers on (1) Harvey Mansfield, *Taming the Prince* (Free Press) [ISBN 9780029199800] AND (2) Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make* (Harvard) [ISBN 9780674689374] due, in either order, on March 1 and April 28 [due dates negotiable; combined worth equals term paper, percentages adjusted]

Grading scale:

A+ (98%-100%), A (93%-97%), A- (90%-92%)
 B+ (88%-90%), B (83%-87%), B- (80%-82%)
 C+ (78%-80%), C (73%-77%), C- (70%-72%)
 D+ (68%-70%), D (63%-67%), D- (60%-62%)
 F (below 60%)

Books available for purchase:

- Sidney M. Milkis & Michael Nelson, *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-2014*, 7th ed. (Sage/CQ Press, 2016) [ISBN 9781483318691]
- Michael Nelson, ed., *The Evolving Presidency: Landmark Documents, 1787-2015*, 5th ed. (Sage/CQ Press, 2016) [ISBN 9781483368566]
- [bundled together at discount: ISBN 9781506350059]

Course Website:

A course website will be available to registered students through the Moodle system.

Library Reserve:

Although most of the readings for the course will be in the textbook and the book of documents, with the others available through Moodle, several books on the presidency will be placed on reserve in Middleton library for you to consult if you wish.

SYLLABUS:

Wed., 1/11 Introduction: Monarchs and Republicans
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 1 (pp. 1-27)

I. THE ORIGINAL PRESIDENCY

Wed., 1/18 Designing the Presidency
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 2 (pp. 28-71)
 SOURCES: Madison's *Notes*; Constitution; George Mason's
 Objections; Cato, Letter #4; *The Federalist Papers*, ##69-73, in
Evolving Presidency (pp. 3-40)

Wed., 1/25 Washington Establishes the Presidency
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 3 (pp. 73-103)
 SOURCES: Washington, First Inaugural; Madison, on Removal
 Power; Pacificus-Helvidius Letters; Washington, Farewell
 Address, in *Evolving Presidency* (pp. 40-62)

Wed., 2/1 The Jeffersonian Presidency
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 4 (pp. 104-130)
 SOURCES: Jefferson, First Inaugural; Jefferson, to Vermont;
 Monroe Doctrine; Tennessee Protest, in *Evolving Presidency*
 (pp. 62-75)

II. THE ELASTIC PRESIDENCY

- Wed., 2/8 From Jackson to Lincoln
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 5-6 (pp, 131-187)
 SOURCES: Jackson, First Message to Congress; Jackson, Veto Message; Lincoln, Message to Congress; Lincoln, Letter to Hodges; Lincoln, Gettysburg Address; Lincoln, Second Inaugural in *Evolving Presidency* (pp, 75-95).
- Wed., 2/15 The Presidency in Retreat
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 7 (pp, 188-226)
 SOURCES: *Ex parte Milligan*; Johnson Impeachment; Pendleton Act; Bryce, "Why No Great Men..." in *Evolving Presidency* (pp, 95-116)
- Wed., 2/22 **MIDTERM EXAM**

III. INTERLUDE: UNDERSTANDING THE PRESIDENCY

- Wed., 3/1 Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*, ch. 1-3 (pp. 3-49)
 Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr., "The Ambivalence of Executive Power," in Bessette & Tulis, eds., *The Presidency in the Constitutional Order*, pp. 314-333
 Stephen Skowronek, "Notes on the Presidency in the Political Order," in *Studies in American Political Development* 1: 286-302

IV. THE MODERN PRESIDENCY

- Wed., 3/8 The Progressive Presidents
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 8 (pp, 227-276)
 SOURCES: TR and Taft on Presidential Power; Wilson, Fourteen Points, in *Evolving Presidency* (pp. 116-125)
- Wed., 3/15 Republicans and Roosevelt
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 9-10 (pp, 277-315)
 SOURCES: *Myers v. US*; FDR, First Inaugural; *Humphrey's Executor v. US*; FDR, Court-packing; Brownlow Committee, in *Evolving Presidency* (pp. 125-141, 146-155)
- Wed., 3/22 Roosevelt and World Leadership
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 10 (pp, 315-349)
 SOURCES: *US v. Curtiss-Wright*; FDR, Internment; Truman Doctrine; *Youngstown Sheet & Tube v. Sawyer*; Eisenhower, Little Rock, in *Evolving Presidency* (pp,142-144, 156-174)

Wed., 3/29 Personalizing the Modern Presidency (pp, 350-395)
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 11
 SOURCES: Kennedy, Inaugural; JFK, to Khrushchev; LBJ, Great Society; LBJ, Gulf of Tonkin; LBJ, Equal Results; Nixon to China; McGovern-Fraser Report; Nixon impeachment; *US v. Nixon*; Carter, “Malaise,” in *Evolving Presidency* (pp. 174-217, 224-229)

Wed., 4/5 Reviving the Presidency: the Reagan Revolution (pp, 396-455)
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 12-13
 SOURCES: Reagan, First Inaugural; *Clinton v. City of New York*; Clinton impeachment, in *Evolving Presidency* (pp. 229-243)

[SPRING BREAK]

Wed., 4/19 The Twenty-first Century Presidency
 Milkis & Nelson, ch. 14-15 (pp, 456-506)
 SOURCES: Bush v. Gore; Bush on terrorism; Bush Doctrine; Bush, signing statement; *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*; Obama on race; Obama on healthcare; *NLRB v. Noel Canning*; Obama SOTU, in *Evolving Presidency* (pp. 243-309)

Wed., 4/26 Codas: The Vice Presidency and the Trump Transition
 Milkis & Nelson, *American Presidency*, ch. 16 (pp, 507-537)
 TBA
 SOURCES: Mondale memorandum, in *Evolving Presidency* (pp. 217-223) and TBA

FINAL EXAMINATION (Wednesday, May 3, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.)