

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3150  
POLITICAL EXECUTIVES  
3 CREDIT HOURS  
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 11:50 – 1:10  
SPRING SEMESTER 2007  
BEH S 107**

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**Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30 and by appointment**

**Course Description**

The university course catalogue describes this course as an examination of:

*Structure, function, powers, and politics of the American presidency and governorship. Examines both intra-executive branch and legislative relations.*

I like to describe it as follows:

In the 1940s John Steinbeck wrote, “We give the President more work than a man can do, more responsibility than a man should take, more pressure than a man can bear. We abuse him often, and rarely praise him. We wear him out, use him up, eat him up. And, with all this, Americans have a love for the president that goes beyond party loyalty or nationality. He is ours, and we exercise the right to destroy him.”

The purpose of this course is to examine the people we choose to be our leaders and the institutional frameworks in which they operate. Naturally, much of the course will examine the presidency; however, we will also analyze governorships and mayoral offices. The course will include discussions about various administrative theories of governing, ethics in governance, political executives and the various institutions that work in tandem with them. We will also explore the ever timely question: What are the characteristics of an effective political executive?

**Texts:**

Pfiffner, James and Roger H. Davidson 2006. *Understanding the Presidency*. New York: Pearson Longman.

Most readings are on electronic reserve at the library. Some of the readings will need to be checked out at the reserve desk because they could not be put on electronic reserve.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Three exams:

First Midterm	Wednesday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>	100 points
Second Midterm	Wednesday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	100 points
Final	Wednesday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	150 points

*Make up exams will be given only in the most extreme cases!!!!*

2. An eight to ten page research / opinion paper.  
 Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 50 points

The details of this paper will be discussed in class.

You are expected to attend class and participate. If you are not in class, your absence will be noticed and the exams will be very difficult.

**Total points possible 400**

**Your grade will be determined on a percentage basis. For example, if you earn 334 of the 400 points, your grade will be 84% or a B.**

**Course Outline:**

*All listed readings should be completed before coming to class.*

**Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> Introduction and analysis of critical thinking**

Reading:

Paul, Richard and Linda Elder. 2003. *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking*.  
 The Foundation for Critical Thinking.

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> Continuation of critical thinking analysis and political executives' character and performance**

Readings:

Schlesinger, Arthur M. Jr. 1997. "Rating the Presidents: Washington to Clinton."  
*Political Science Quarterly* 112 (2): 179-190.

Pika, Joseph A. and John Anthony Maltese. 2002. *The Politics of the Presidency*.  
 Washington D.C.: CQ Press. \*\*\*\*Read pages 148-161

Shenkman, Richard. 2000. "Is Presidential Character Everything?" *National Forum* (Winter 2000): 17-25.

Bose, Meena and John J. DiIulio Jr. 2007. *Classic Ideas and Current Issues in American Government*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. \*\*\*\* Read Chapter 10.

**Monday, January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> Character and Performance continued**

**Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> - *Political Executives and the bureaucracies they manage***

Readings:

Text- *Understanding the Presidency* – Sections 1 & 2

Wilson, Woodrow. 1887. “The Study of Administration.” *Political Science Quarterly* 2 (June 1887): 197-222.

Moe, Terry M. 1994. Integrating Politics and Organizations; Positive Theory and Public Administration. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 4 (February): 17-25.

**Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> - *Political Executives in times of crisis***

Readings:

Text – *Understanding the Presidency* Section 8

Allison, Graham T. 1971. “Conceptual Models and The Cuban Missile Crisis.” *American Political Science Review* 63: 689-718.

Ellis, Richard J. and Michael Nelson. 2006. *Debating the Presidency*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. \*\*\*Read Chapter 7

**Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> – *Religion and political executives***

Readings:

Moyers, Bill. 2005. “There Is No Tomorrow.” *The Star Tribune* 30 January.

Wills, Garry. 2006. “A Country Ruled by Faith.” *The New York Review of Books* 53: (November 16).

Linker, Damon. 2007. “Taking Mormonism Seriously. The Big Test.” *The New Republic* 236: (January 1-15).

Lincoln, Bruce. 2003. *Holy Terrors*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. \*\*\*Read Chapter 2

**Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – First Midterm**

**Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> - *The psychological dimensions of political executives***

Readings:

Text - *Understanding the Presidency* Section 7

Ellis, Richard J. and Michael Nelson. 2006. *Debating the Presidency*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. \*\*\*Read Chapter 11.

Genovese, Michael A. 2003. *The Presidential Dilemma*. New York: Longman. \*\*\* Read Chapter 3

Greenstein, Fred I. "The Reagan Personality" in Bailey, Harry A. and Jay M. Shafritz, *The American Presidency* 1988.

**Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – Presidents' Day**

**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> - *Ethics and political executives***

Readings:

Text- *Understanding the Presidency* Section 9

Genovese, Michael A. 2003. *The Presidential Dilemma*. New York: Longman. \*\*Read Chapter 4.

Bennett, William, Thomas E. Cronin and Michael A. Genovese. 2001. "The Presidency: Does the President's Personal Morality Matter?" In *Taking Sides*, edited by George McKenna and Stanley Feingold. Conn.: McGraw Hill/ Dushkin.

**Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – *Political executives and gender***

Readings:

Costello, Cynthia B. and Anne J. Stone. 2001. *The American Woman 2001-2002*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. \*\*\*Read Chapter 1

Harrison, Brigid C. *Women In American Politics*. 2003. United States: Thomson. \*\*\*Read Chapter 8

**Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> - *Political executives and other elected officials***

Reading:

Text - *Understanding the Presidency* Section 6

**Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Executive Privilege**

Reading:

Ellis, Richard J. and Michael Nelson. 2006. *Debating the Presidency*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. \*\*\*Read Chapter 9.

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Second Midterm**

**Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – Spring Break**

**Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> - *The executive's staff, cabinet and the institutional presidency***

Reading:

: Text – *Understanding The Presidency* Section 5

Ellis, Richard J. and Michael Nelson. 2006. *Debating the Presidency*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. \*\*\*Read Chapter 10

**Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> - *Judicial Politics—Political Executives and Judicial Appointments***

Reading:

Ellis, Richard J. and Michael Nelson. 2006. *Debating the Presidency*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. \*\*\*Read Chapter 8

**Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> - *Political executives versus the media and public opinion***

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Readings:

Text - *Understanding the Presidency* Section 4

Ceaser, James et al. “The Rise of the Rhetorical Presidency” in Bailey, Harry A. and Jay M. Shafritz, *The American Presidency*.

Liebovich, Louis W. 2000. “The Press as Presidential Antagonist.” *National Forum* (Winter 2000); 26-29.

Ellis, Richard J. and Michael Nelson. 2006. *Debating the Presidency*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. \*\*\*Read Chapter 5

**Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> - *Do governors make good Presidents?***

Reading:

Osborne, David 1988. *Laboratories of Democracy*. "Chapter 3: Arkansas the Education Model"

**Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> - *A closer look at the Bush Presidency***

Campbell, Colin, and Bert A. Rockman. 2004. *The George W. Bush Presidency*. "Chapter 4: Unrestrained ideological Entrepreneurship in the Bush II Advisory System." And, "Chapter 1: Managing the Presidency or the President?" Washington D.C.: CQ Press.

Pfiffner, James P. 2004. "Chapter 1: Assessing the Bush Presidency," in *Considering the Bush Presidency*, edited by Gary L. Gregg II and Mark J. Rozell. New York: Oxford University Press.

Genovese, Michael, A. 2000. "What Have You Done for Me Lately?" *National Forum*. (Winter 2000); 30-39.

**Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – Conclusions**

Reading:

Ellis, Richard J. and Michael Nelson. 2006. *Debating the Presidency*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. \*\*\*Read Chapter 1

**Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:30 to 12:30 FINAL EXAM**

*The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.*

*All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.*