Course Description

This course is an introduction to the politics of the presidency in the United States. Even though we will sometimes deal with facts and figures, the main focus is to examine the workings of the American presidency in a scientific way. The topics that we will intensively discuss include: 1) presidential elections; 2) presidential character and performance; 3) president’s legislative role; 4) executive politics; 5) court and president; 6) president and public policy; and 7) scientific research on presidential politics.

Prerequisites

There is no official pre-requisite course except for junior standing. However, it is generally assumed that students are familiar with materials that are normally covered in POL SCI 104 (Introduction to American Government and Politics).

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1) Describe how the president is elected;
2) Understand how the president influence public opinion;
3) Analyze how the president competes for power with Congress and the courts;
4) Examine how the president influence public policy; and

This course fulfils the research requirement for L&S degree:

1) Students will conduct independent and original research on the American presidency;
2) In conducting research on the presidency, it is crucial for students to review and evaluate the relevant scholarly work in order to show the importance of their own research.
3) Students will share their research with their colleagues by various means including, but not limited to, oral presentation in class, author-discussant pairing, and online discussion.

This is a 3-credit online course over the 6-week period. In order to achieve the learning goals of the course, students are expected to set aside a minimum of 12 hours each week studying the materials, and another minimum of 6 hours each week working on assignments. Assignments include taking quizzes and actively participating to the online discussion, among others.
Required Texts

The following textbook is required:


Students will also utilize scholarly articles to enhance their deeper understanding of each topic. These materials will be distributed via D2L (d2l.uwm.edu).

In addition, it is strongly recommended that students regularly read national as well as local newspapers. *The New York Times* and *the Washington Post* are two excellent sources of news on politics and government. If needed, *CQ Weekly*, *Roll Call*, and the *Hill* would be nice supplements.

Course Requirements and Grading

Every Tuesday and Friday morning at 9AM central, one document will be uploaded to D2L. This “study plan” document includes:

- What students are expected to do until the next upload of study guide;
- Reading assignment;
  - It is based on substantive topics rather than number of pages. So, it is possible that students read somewhat longer reading one week but shorter reading another week.
  - While the tentative schedule below gives you rough idea about reading schedule, it is extremely important that we will follow the “actual” study plan that will be distributed every week (i.e. the quiz is based on this study plan).
- Discussion question;
  - Students are required to share their thoughts with classmates in two ways
    - First, every student need to participate in the discussion at least ONCE during the specific period that each “study plan” sets up. It is usually between the times of study guide upload: Tuesday 9AM-Friday 9AM and Friday 9AM-Tuesday 9AM.
    - Second, depending on progress of discussion, I will participate in the discussion in a way that requires some deeper and/or careful thoughts. Then, students have opportunities to share their thoughts again with classmates.
  - Students cannot endorse certain political (and/or partisan) views in a very aggressive way. We all have political and/or partisan perspectives, but it is important that we need to elaborate them in a more academic and professional manner.
  - As always, quality is far more important than quantity. In addition, it is NOT considered to be discussion if it is just simple careless expression including, but not limited to, “okay” “agreed” and “exactly what I wanted to say.”
• Quiz:
  o It aims to check if students complete the “study plan,” especially reading assignment.
  o While the quiz is uploaded at 9AM, students can actually “start” the quiz anytime from 9AM to midnight.
  o Once the quiz is “open,” it must be completed within 30 minutes.

The final course grading will be based upon four parts:

1) **Quiz** (40%): Throughout the semester, we will have nine (9) quizzes in total. You can choose to discard one (and only one) worst-performed quiz. As such, each quiz is worth 5% of the final course grade.

2) **Discussion** (30%): We will start from the point 30. Whenever a student does not participate in the discussion, two (2) points will be subtracted. Any un-professional misconduct will result in one (1) point subtracted. In addition, any “great” discussion will add one (1) point—any points that exceed 30% will become “bonus” points.

3) **Research** (25%): Students will conduct independent and original research on the American presidency. It should be typed and double-spaced with the 10 page-limit. The specific guidance on the research requirement will be distributed later in the semester.

4) **Research – Discussant** (5%): We will do “pairing” that assigns one student to another student’s research paper. Each student will be in charge of the discussion role for his/her pair. It should also be typed and double-spaced. The specific guidance will come later in the semester, too.

Students who take this course under the Pass/Fail option must receive a grade of C or better in order to obtain a Pass on their final grade. A final grade of “Incomplete” will only be given under exceptional circumstances and is solely at the discretion of Professor Park.

As a general rule, make-ups for any course requirements will not be given. Students who miss requirements because of scheduled activities of an official University student organization, a religious holiday, or a verifiable illness should contact Professor Park in advance of missing them so that alternative arrangements can be made.

If there is a dispute regarding a grade, re-grading is possible under two conditions:

• We will have a “cooling” period of at least TWO business days. Any complaints or disputes will NOT be considered in this period.
• Then, all complaints must be typed and must clearly express specific concerns. These written statements must be accompanied by citations of support from course materials, i.e. readings, textbooks, and/or lecture notes, in order to ensure accuracy.

**Classroom Policies and Instructor Availability**

All students are expected to behave professionally in this online class. Class discussions are expected to be civil, rational, and respectful of others’ opinions. Please do not intimidate, patronize, or ridicule anyone else during the course of classroom activities.
If students would like to speak with Professor Park outside of the online class, you can setup an appointment via email. Because the class meets during the summer time, I cannot guarantee that I will be in my office when you would like to stop by my office. Email me first!

**Academic Integrity and Student Disabilities**

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has detailed its policies on academic integrity ([http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm](http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm)). Students should acquaint themselves with policies concerning cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and academic interference. Any submission of work by a student in this course constitutes a certificate that the work complies with university policies on academic integrity.

Any student with disabilities of any kind (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, systemic, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact Professor Park and the Student Accessibility Center (Mitchell 112, 414-229-6287, [http://www4.uwm.edu/sac](http://www4.uwm.edu/sac)) at the beginning of the summer session.

**Tentative Schedule**

Below is a tentative schedule for the semester. Professor Park reserves the rights to alter the reading assignments and quiz dates in a timely fashion according to the progress of the class. **PMR** indicates Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige (2018) textbook.

1. **Introduction** – 5/29 Tuesday
   - Make sure to login to the D2L page—read the study guide there.
   - Discussion: Introduction of yourself

2. **President in Context** – 6/1 Friday
   - PMR 1
   - U.S. Constitution, Articles I, II, III, and Amendments
   - Discussion: Are you satisfied with the Trump presidency? Why?

3. **Presidential Elections** – 6/5 Tuesday
   - PMR 2
   - Discussion: Strong presidency? Reform the signing statements?

4. **Public Politics** – 6/8 Friday
   - PMR 3
   - Discussion: What’s wrong with polls in the 2016 presidential election?
5. Character and Performance – 6/12 Tuesday
- PMR 4

**IMPORTANT:** On 6/12 Tuesday, we are NOT going to have “discussion” as usual. Instead, students are required to write a one-page summary of their research topic.
- This includes the research question in one sentence, the research design in one paragraph, and the expected conclusion in one paragraph.
- Then, it should also be delivered to their research discussant. Discussants, upon receiving the summary, should provide some feedback within a week.

6. President and Congress – 6/15 Friday
- PMR 5
- Discussion: Describe President Trump using Barber’s typology.

7. Executive Politics – 6/19 Tuesday
- PMR 6
- Discussion: Evaluate President Trump’s legislative success.

8. Judicial Politics – 6/22 Friday
- PMR 7
- Discussion: Evaluate the relationship between President Trump and bureaucrats

9. President and Public Policy – 6/26 Tuesday
- PMR 8, 9, 10
- Discussion: Evaluate the relationship between President Trump and courts

- Students are required to write the first draft of their research paper by 7/3 Tuesday.
- It is expected to be at least 5 pages long, typed and double spaced.
- Then, it should also be delivered to their research discussant. Discussant, upon receiving the first draft, should provide short feedback within 24 hours.

11. Research Paper – 7/3 Tuesday
- Students are required to write their research paper. It should be typed and double-spaced with the 10 page-limit.
- The deadline for the final version is **June 6 Friday at midnight.**