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; and 6) scientific research on the Trump presidency.

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) Evaluate the American presidency in a more scientific way; 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, 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, writing opinions, drafting essays, and conducting original research, 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 Canvas (https://uwm.edu/canvas/).

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

This course will have a site on the Canvas system (https://uwm.edu/canvas/). Every Tuesday and Friday morning at 9AM central, one document will be uploaded to Canvas. This “study guide” 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 longer reading one day but shorter reading another day.
  - While the tentative schedule below gives students rough idea about reading schedule, it is extremely important that students follow the “actual” study guide that will be distributed every Tuesday and Friday (i.e. the quiz is based on this study guide).
- Quiz;
  - In order to check the reading assignment, students will have quizzes.
  - Each quiz will be uploaded at the same time of reading assignment. As soon as students finish reading, they can “start” the quiz. However, the quiz will be closed automatically on the next upload date, at 9AM.
  - Once the quiz is “open,” it must be completed within 30 minutes. It is very important to recognize that Canvas does NOT allow students to “pause and re-start” the quiz.
- Opinion writing;
  - In addition to taking quiz, students will answer the one-paragraph question that asks their opinion on a given topic.
  - While there is no “correct” answer for this type of questions, it is important to know that students need to clearly demonstrate their reasoning about why their opinion makes sense.
- Writing Essays;
  - Students will have two opportunities to express their opinion on presidency in a more complete fashion.
This summer, students will be asked to write essays on the Trump presidency. While students have freedom to express their partisan/political opinion, it is very important that students need to elaborate them in a more academic and professional manner.

- Research:
  - Two specific research questions on the Trump presidency will be given on the 2nd week, and students will choose one question based on their interests.
  - The one-page summary of the first draft will be submitted during the 5th week.
  - Then, each student will receive feedback, and will submit the final version by July 19, Friday, at 9AM.

The final course grading will be based upon four parts:

1) **Quiz (40%)**: Throughout the 6-week session, we will have eight (8) quizzes in total. As such, each quiz is worth 5% of the final course grade.

2) **Opinion Writing (14%)**: Throughout the 6-week session, we will have seven (7) chances to write “opinion” in one paragraph. As such, each opinion writing is worth 2% of the final course grade.

3) **Essay (16%)**: We will write two 2-page essays, which should be typed and double-spaced. Each essay is worth 8% of the final course grade.

4) **Research (30%)**: We will conduct independent and original research on the Trump presidency. The choice of research question is worth 5% of the final course grade, and the one-page summary is worth 10% of the final course grade. Then, the final version, that should be typed and double-spaced with the 10-page maximum, is worth 15% of the final course grade.

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.

**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). 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/) at the beginning of the summer session.

Tentative Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule for the 6-week session. 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 – 6/11 Tuesday
   - Make sure to login to the Canvas page—read the study guide there.
   - U.S. Constitution, Articles I, II, III, and Amendments
   - Class activity: introduce yourself

2. President in Context – 6/14 Friday
   - PMR 1

3. Presidential Elections – 6/18 Tuesday
   - PMR 2
   - Class activity: choose research topic

4. Essay 1 – 6/21 Friday

5. Public Politics – 6/25 Tuesday
   - PMR 3

6. Character and Performance – 6/28 Friday
   - PMR 4
7. Essay 2 – 7/2 Tuesday

8. President and Congress – 7/5 Friday
   - PMR 5

9. Executive Politics – 7/9 Tuesday
   - PMR 6
   - Class activity: submit one-page summary of your research

10. Judicial Politics – 7/12 Friday
    - PMR 7
    - Class activity: read the feedback for your research

11. Research Paper – 7/16 Tuesday
    - The deadline for the final version is **July 19 Friday at 9AM**.