

PS 005: THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

Originator

sbutler

Justification / Rationale

Worked with SLO Coordinator on new SLOs

Effective Term

201930

Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Subject

PS - Political Science

Course Number

005

Full Course Title

The American Presidency

Short Title

PRESIDENCY

Discipline**Disciplines List**

Political Science

Modality

Face-to-Face

100% Online

Hybrid

Catalog Description

This course focuses on the evolution of the American presidency, with an emphasis on the modern presidency. Students will examine the expectations gap: what we expect from our president and what he can accomplish within the confines of the Constitution. Students will also learn about the presidential selection process, from the primaries to the general election.

Schedule Description

Study of the evolution of the presidency, the public's expectations of the president, and the presidential selection process. Advisory: ENG 001A

Lecture Units

3

Lecture Semester Hours

54

Lab Units

0

In-class Hours

54

Out-of-class Hours

108

Total Course Units

3

Total Semester Hours

162

Prerequisite Course(s)

Advisory: ENG 001A

Required Text and Other Instructional Materials**Resource Type**

Book

Open Educational Resource

No

Formatting Style

APA

Author

Skowronek, Stephen

Title

Presidential Leadership in Political Time: Reprise and Reappraisal, Revised and Expanded

Edition

2nd

Publisher

University of Kansas Press

Year

2011

College Level

Yes

Flesch-Kincaid Level

12.2

ISBN #

0700617620

Resource Type

Book

Open Educational Resource

No

Formatting Style

APA

Author

Nelson, Michael

Title

The Elections of 2016.

Publisher

Sage Press

Year

2017

College Level

Yes

Flesch-Kincaid Level

12

ISBN #

9781506378084

Resource Type

Book

Open Educational Resource

No

Formatting Style

APA

Author

Jones, Charles

Title

The American Presidency: A Very Short Introduction

Publisher

Oxford University Press

Year

2016

College Level

Yes

Flesch-Kincaid Level

12

ISBN #

0190458208

For Text greater than five years old, list rationale:

Presidential Leadership in Political Time is a well-read book among political science students. It has not been updated since this last edition was published. It is essential in establishing a presidential theory that we use/reference throughout the course.

Class Size Maximum

50

Entrance Skills

Acquire an understanding of the basic differences between Western and non-Western style governments

Prerequisite Course Objectives

PS 001-Identify the various levels and types of government and briefly describe the theory undergirding each.

PS 001-Trace, analyze and critically evaluate American political thought from its origins to the present.

PS 001-Name the most significant events in the development of constitutions of the United States and the State of California.

PS 001-State how the legislative, judicial and executive branches of both the government of the State of California and the Federal system are organized, including the powers which reside in each.

Entrance Skills

Recognize the problems faced by governments in emerging nations and the similarities between those problems faced by developed nations as they grew in political sophistication

Prerequisite Course Objectives

PS 001-Define the concept of civil liberties and identify which derive from the Federal system and which from that of the State of California.

PS 001-Articulate and explain the rights and obligations of citizenship

Entrance Skills

Identify and understand some of the most salient, recurring patterns in American history, an example of which are the ongoing conflicts and contrasts between American ideals and patterns of discrimination and exclusion

Prerequisite Course Objectives

PS 001-Trace the struggle for equal rights as it has occurred at both the Federal and California State levels; relevant legislation and judicial decisions should be cited and the importance of these critically assessed.

Entrance Skills

Analyze the interrelationships between economics, political history and societal life

Prerequisite Course Objectives

PS 001-Critically evaluate the role of government in promoting the general welfare.

Entrance Skills

Read, analyze, evaluate, interpret and synthesize varied texts

Prerequisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Find, read, analyze, evaluate, interpret, and synthesize outside sources, including online information.

Entrance Skills

Develop coherent written ideas

Prerequisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Develop ideas coherently in writing through the drafting process.

Entrance Skills

Write thesis statements, topic sentences, and ideas in an organized manner

Prerequisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Write thesis statements, topic sentences, and ideas in an organized way in multi-page essays.

Entrance Skills

Be able to discern various types of sources including news articles, editorials, blogs, etc.

Prerequisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Find, read, analyze, evaluate, interpret, and synthesize outside sources, including online information.

Entrance Skills

Develop a thesis that is supported by factual evidence

Prerequisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Write essays with varied strategies, including persuasive essays, with a arguable theses and evidence from a variety types of sources.

Course Content

Unit 1: Evolution of the Presidency

- The Traditional Presidency vs. the Modern Presidency
- The Contemporary Presidency

Unit 2: Presidents and the Constitution

- The Framers' Vision
- Inherited Practices
- The Limited Executive
- Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances
- The Elite Presidency through the Electoral College
- The Vesting Clause
- Executive Orders and Signing Statements
- Presidential Pardons
- War Powers Resolution

Unit 3: The Presidential Selection Process

- The Pre-Nomination Period
- Deciding to Run
- The Invisible Primary
- Gaining Party Support
- Financing Campaigns
- Primaries/Caucuses
- Primary Momentum and the Role of the Media
- The General Election and the Electoral College
- Communicating Messages to Voters
- Electoral Coalitions
- Campaigning vs. Governing

Unit 4: The President and Congress

- Using the Veto
- The Legislative Veto
- The Line-Item Veto
- Recommendations to Congress
- Senate Confirmations

Unit 5: The President and the Supreme Court

- *Nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court*
- Franklin Roosevelt and the Federal Courts
- Tenure and Removal
- The Nomination Process
- The Confirmation Process
- The Confirmation Hearings
- Politicizing the Process
- Presidential Legacies

Unit 6: The President and the Executive Branch

- The Bureaucracy, Past and Present
- Separation of Power Creates Conflict
- The Cabinet
- *The Executive Office of the President*
- White House Staff

Unit 7: Presidents and Domestic Policy

- Policy and Presidential Agendas
- *Presidents and Domestic Policymaking*
- Principal Domestic Policymakers
- *The Evolution of U.S. Domestic Policy*
- Economic Policy
- Social Policy
- Social Services

Unit 8: Presidents and Foreign Policy

- U.S. Foreign Policy
- Diplomacy vs. National Security
- Economic Interests
- Relations with other world leaders

Course Objectives

	Objectives
Objective 1	Critically evaluate presidential theories of power
Objective 2	Describe the development of the modern presidency and evaluate the causes and consequences of major changes in the institution over time
Objective 3	Explain the formal and informal mechanisms that the president can use to achieve his objectives when interacting with other branches of government
Objective 4	Identify the institutional and political constraints that limit the president's ability to achieve his objectives
Objective 5	Analyze the major factors affecting the outcome of presidential primary and general election campaigns
Objective 6	Analyze role of parties in the presidential selection process
Objective 7	Analyze the role of interest groups in the presidential selection process
Objective 8	Evaluate the various methods in which presidential candidates obtain funding for their campaigns
Objective 9	Identify when presidential candidates seek to "balance the ticket" when they choose their vice presidential candidate
Objective 10	Analyze how a candidate's public image has impacted their electoral prospects and success
Objective 11	Assess the role of the Internet and social media in presidential elections since 2004
Objective 12	Analyze the president's influence on economic and foreign policy
Objective 13	Evaluate the actions presidents take in international affairs
Objective 14	Identify policies on which modern presidents have "gone public" to gain support for their policies

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:
Outcome 1	Assess presidential candidates' prospects for success in primary elections.
Outcome 2	Differentiate between the popular vote and the Electoral College vote.
Outcome 3	Analyze the evolution of the executive branch to explain the increased demands placed on the president.

Methods of Instruction

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each instructional method will be used in this course.
Discussion	Typically, discussions are required in every class. Students need to participate in these discussions to earn participation points.
Lecture	Required to give students context for the readings.
Journal	Typically, reflections are done every class or every other class (a few paragraphs) so that students can connect what they read to their lives.
Other (Specify)	Videos may be given in or out of class to provide students with context for their readings.
Activity	Group and individual activities like writing and filming a campaign ad.
Technology-based instruction	May use LMS to deliver materials to students.

Methods of Evaluation

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each evaluation method will be used in this course.	Type of Assignment
College level or pre-collegiate essays	In addition to a major research paper, usually assign 2-3 shorter essays (3-4 pages).	Out of Class Only
Tests/Quizzes/Examinations	Typically given, along with midterm and final cumulative exams, 2-3 exams throughout the semester.	In Class Only

Guided/unguided journals	Reflective assignments. A few paragraphs asking students to connect their personal experiences to the readings. Can be given every week or every few weeks.	In and Out of Class
Written homework	Can be given every class or every few classes to ensure students complete the required reading.	Out of Class Only
Term or research papers	At least 1 major research assignment. Minimum 5-7 pages.	Out of Class Only
Mid-term and final evaluations	Typically, exams with either or both multiple choice and short essays.	Out of Class Only
Group activity participation/observation	Typically, students will be given assignments to complete in class, as a group. They can be shorter assignments (1-2 paragraphs) or longer assignments/group projects (videos, presentations, etc.).	In Class Only

Assignments

Other In-class Assignments

1. Participate in class discussion and take detailed notes on the lecture
2. Graded individual, written reflections on the out-of-class assigned material
3. Small group discussion in which students must actively participate (instructors can grade each student's performance in group activities based on the extent and depth of each student's contributions)
4. Class debate in which students are assigned roles (team member, moderator, active audience members) and graded on their individual performance
5. Examinations of various types, such as essay and multiple choice

Other Out-of-class Assignments

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1. Readings in the textbook and in recommended supplementary literature
2. Viewing of films, video clips, including the taking of notes
3. Listening to sound recordings and taking notes
4. Special reports or projects by students, in panel or singly
5. Participation in research projects involving the collection, compilation and interpretation of data, including the composition of written or oral reports/presentations

Grade Methods

Letter Grade Only

Distance Education Checklist

Include the percentage of online and on-campus instruction you anticipate.

Online %

50

On-campus %

50

Instructional Materials and Resources

If you use any other technologies in addition to the college LMS, what other technologies will you use and how are you ensuring student data security?

N/A

If used, explain how specific materials and resources outside the LMS will be used to enhance student learning.

N/A

Effective Student/Faculty Contact

Which of the following methods of regular, timely, and effective student/faculty contact will be used in this course?

Within Course Management System:

Timely feedback and return of student work as specified in the syllabus
Discussion forums with substantive instructor participation
Chat room/instant messaging
Regular virtual office hours
Private messages
Online quizzes and examinations
Weekly announcements

External to Course Management System:

Direct e-mail
Posted audio/video (including YouTube, 3cm mediasolutions, etc.)

For hybrid courses:

Scheduled Face-to-Face group or individual meetings
Orientation, study, and/or review sessions

Briefly discuss how the selected strategies above will be used to maintain Regular Effective Contact in the course.

The above selected strategies are the best ways to ensure regular effective contact in an online setting. Announcements, email, regular virtual office hours, chat rooms/instant messaging, etc. ensure the class receives the same information and opportunities to interact with the instructor as students in a face-to-face setting.

Discussions and audio/video files (posted in discussions) allow students to interact with one another, as they would in a face-to-face classroom.

For hybrid sections, review/study sessions and regularly scheduled face-to-face meetings will help students successfully complete both the in-person and online parts of the course. They can seek help in class during regularly scheduled times throughout the semester, just like students in a face-to-face setting.

If interacting with students outside the LMS, explain how additional interactions with students outside the LMS will enhance student learning.

N/A

Online Course Enrollment

Maximum enrollment for online sections of this course

50

If different from course enrollment maximum, please explain.

Given the replacement of actual face-to-face discussions with online written or audio/video discussion posts and other written materials that would not be assigned in a face-to-face setting, 5 fewer students means we can give the other 45 students the regular effective contact required. Also, Section 14.3 (d) of the collective bargaining agreement states that 45 is an acceptable number for online sections.

Other Information

Comparable Transfer Course Information

University System

UC

Campus

UC Los Angeles

Course Number

PS140B

Course Title

National Institutions: The Presidency

Catalog Year

2015-16

Rationale

UC's and Cal States offer upper division courses similar to the one listed at UCLA.

COD GE

C2 - Social and Behavioral Science

MIS Course Data**CIP Code**

45.1001 - Political Science and Government, General.

TOP Code

220700 - Political Science

SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Basic Skills Status

Not Basic Skills

Prior College Level

Not applicable

Cooperative Work Experience

Not a Coop Course

Course Classification Status

Credit Course

Approved Special Class

Not special class

Noncredit Category

Not Applicable, Credit Course

Funding Agency Category

Not Applicable

Program Status

Program Applicable

Transfer Status

Transferable to both UC and CSU

Allow Audit

No

Repeatability

No

Materials Fee

No

Additional Fees?

No

Approvals

Curriculum Committee Approval Date

02/21/2019

Academic Senate Approval Date

02/28/2019

Board of Trustees Approval Date

03/15/2019

Course Control Number

CCC000569644

Programs referencing this course

Political Science AA-T Degree (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined?key=18>)