

The American Presidency

PSCI 6150

Spring 2022

Professor: Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha
Office: 156 Wooten
Office Hours: T 11:00am-2:00pm

E-mail: Matthew.Eshbaugh-Soha@unt.edu
Phone: 565-2329
Class: T 2:25-5:15pm, Wooten 111

Course Overview

This course focuses on the American presidency. The foundation of this course is about presidential power, a concept that we will define and then apply throughout the course. We will study the presidency in relation to the public and the media, and as a representative institution. We will stress the presidency and its interaction with Congress, the courts, and the bureaucracy, and explore the limits of and opportunities for presidential leadership. We will also discuss individual presidents, including their decision-making and how the institution of the office shapes presidential behavior. Two additional topics—the historical presidency and comparative executives—will round out your understanding of the presidency and executive politics. Throughout the course, we will discuss and analyze systematically findings of the scholarly community.

This seminar is designed to help you develop a broad understanding of the presidency as a political institution, backed by critical review of specific findings. As you will be reading much of the important literature relevant to the presidency, you should have a substantial grasp of the presidency as an institution and the important questions being explored by political scientists in this area of study. In short, you will not only understand “what we know” about the American presidency, but also have a sense of what questions remained unanswered.

Because this seminar is also structured to encourage you to speak often about the readings and write a unique, conference-style research paper on the presidency, you should leave the seminar with improved critical thinking and writing skills, and a frame of thinking about the presidency using rigorous logic.

Course Assignments

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| 1. Class Participation | 25 % |
| 2. Article Discussion and Bibliography | 20 % |
| 3. Book Review | 20 % |
| 4. Final Paper | 35 % |

Final Paper: Your final paper will address a major question in the area of presidents and executive politics. You should begin thinking about your paper early and may wish to glance ahead at a topic that you find interesting. This paper should not be seen as an end in itself. I strongly urge you to use this paper as a way of thinking about how this class and this paper fits into your goals as a graduate student.

You have two options for a final paper in this class. First, you may write a field review essay. This will examine one area of the presidency literature, perhaps a weekly topic, and you will detail “what we know” about that topic. This option will help you develop expertise in a particular area of the presidency and help you prepare for comprehensive exams. Second, you may develop the equivalent of a conference paper, complete with theory, hypotheses, data and findings. This second option must be a complete conference-style paper, with data acceptable to test your hypotheses and sufficient to analyze. Exploring the second option will require my approval at the paper proposal stage.

Either way, your paper’s central focus must be on the presidency, and it must be distinct from papers you have written in other classes, unless this paper is to be part of a dissertation or thesis. The paper should follow APSA formatting and should approach 20 pages in length before references, tables, and figures.

In lieu of a formal class presentation, the last day of class will be an in-class discussion where each student will be able to talk briefly about their project and what they uncovered.

Paper Proposal: As part of the research paper grade, I require you to write and submit a **one-page proposal** that will do the following: ask a question you will attempt to answer; identify some literature that you will read; and express why this might be an important paper. You should think of this proposal as the beginning of your conversation with me about your research paper. Indeed, you are required to see me in person about your research paper (office hours or make an appointment). Although the final due date for the proposal is **September 29, 2026**, you are more than welcome to turn in a proposal or seek my guidance earlier than that.

Article Discussion and Bibliography: Every one to two weeks, you will be responsible for offering a detailed summary and analysis of a specific article that we will read. You will be prepared to identify the research question in the paper and the key literature upon which the article builds, explain the theory and hypotheses of the paper, discuss the methods, and summarize the findings. Throughout the semester, you will also summarize what you have learned from your set of articles in the form of an annotated bibliography. These are due **no later than November 10** and are to be shared with the entire class.

Book Review: Each of you will write one book review, from one of the required books, or another with my prior approval. This book review should be between 750 and 1000 words. A quality book review will identify the core theme or contribution of the book, summarize in succinct detail the most important findings in the book, and offer constructive criticism. **The book review is due the day of class for the book’s weekly topic.** I encourage you to read other book reviews—but not a review of the book you are reading! Some ideas for thinking about reviewing others’ work may be found here: Miller et al. 2013. “How to be a Peer-Reviewer,” *PS: Political Science*. 120-23.

Class Participation: I expect each of you to demonstrate a comprehensive grasp of the assigned readings on a weekly basis and to do so by speaking about the readings each week. Only if you think about and grapple with the implications and limitations of the readings will you be able to develop your own insights. Speaking effectively is also a skill necessary for your career. I will be keeping track of participation. A regular, nearly weekly contribution is required to earn full credit.

Articles and Books: Most, if not all, articles are available through JSTOR or the library's electronic journal databases. Selections from books are available on this course's page in Canvas.

Required Reading

- Beckmann, Matthew. 2024. *The President's Day: Managing Time in the Oval Office*. Columbia University Press.
- Christenson, Dino P., and Douglas L. Kriner. 2020. *The Myth of the Imperial Presidency*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Cohen, Jeffrey E. 2019. *The President on Capitol Hill*. Columbia University Press.
- Azari, Julia. 2025. *Backlash Presidents: From Transformative to Reactionary Leaders in American History*. Princeton University Press.
- Edwards III, George C. 2022. *Prisoners of Their Premises: How Unexamined Assumptions Lead to War and Other Policy Debacles*. University of Chicago Press.

Recommended

- Kernell, Samuel. 2007. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*, 4th edition Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2006. *Who Leads Whom?* University of Chicago Press.
- Edwards, George C., III. 2009. *The Strategic President*. Yale University Press.
- Neustadt, Richard. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. The Free Press.

Other Resources

Two additional resources can help you to supplement your knowledge of the presidency. These are: (1) The *Annual Review of Political Science*; (2) *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*; and (3) Edwards and Howell, eds. 2009. *The Oxford Handbook of the American Presidency*. Literature is arranged topically, is generally up to date, and will provide you with a general overview of important research. These are summaries and may not be used in the annotated bibliography. For information on annotated bibliographies: <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography>

Course Schedule

Week One, August 18

APSA Style Manual

King, Gary. 2006. "Publication, Publication." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39: 119-125.

Zigerell, L.J. 2011. "Of Publishable Quality: Ideas for Political Science Seminar Papers." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 44: 629-633.

Miller, et al. 2013. "How to be a Peer Reviewer." *PS: Political Science* 46: 120-123.

Course Introduction

Week Two, August 25

Presidential Power

- Richard Neustadt. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. Free Press. Chapter 3.
- Kernell, Samuel. 1997. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*, 3rd edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 2
- Edwards, George C., III. 2009. *The Strategic President*. Yale University Press. Chapter 1.
- Cameron, Charles. 2000. *Veto Bargaining*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2001. "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals." *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 313-329.

Week Three, September 1

Leading the Public

- Edwards, George C. III. 2003. *On Deaf Ears: The Limits of the Bully Pulpit*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 2
- Cavari, Amnon. 2012. "The Short-Term Effect of Going Public." *Political Research Quarterly* 66: 336-351.
- Wood, B. Dan., Chris T. Owens, and Brandy M. Durham. 2005. "Presidential Rhetoric and the Economy." *Journal of Politics* 67: 627-45.
- Russell, Annelise, and Rebecca Eissler. 2022. "Conditional Presidential Priorities: Audience-Driven Agenda Setting." *American Politics Research* 50: 545-49.
- Christenson, Kreps, and Kriner. 2021. "Going Public in an Era of Social Media?" *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 51: 151-165.
- * Matthew A. Baum and Samuel Kernell. 1999. "Has Cable Ended the Golden Age of Presidential Television?" *American Political Science Review* 93: 99-114.
- * Jeffrey E. Cohen. 1995. "Presidential Rhetoric and the Public Agenda," *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 87-107.
- * Young, Gary and William B. Perkins. 2005. "Presidential Rhetoric, the Public Agenda, and the End of Presidential Television's 'Golden Age.'" *Journal of Politics* 67: 1190-1205.
- * Welch, Reed. 2003. "Was Reagan Really a Great Communicator?" *Presidential Studies Quarterly*: 853-76.
- * Roberta Glaros and Bruce Miroff. 1983. "Watching Ronald Reagan: Viewers' Reaction to the President on Television," *Congress and the Presidency* 10 (Spring): 25-46.
- * Lee Sigelman. 1980. "Gauging the Public Response to Presidential Leadership," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 10 (Summer): 427-433.
- * Rottinghaus, Brandon. 2010. *The Provisional Pulpit*. Texas A&M University Press.
- * Welch, Reed. 2003b. "Presidential Success Communicating with the Public Through Televised Addresses." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (June): 347-65.
- * Darrell M. West. 1988. "Activists and Economic Policymaking in Congress," *American Journal of Political Science* 32: 662-680.
- * Wood, B. Dan. 2007. *The Politics of Presidential Leadership*. Princeton University Press.
- * Eshbaugh-Soha, Matthew. 2010. "The Politics of Presidential Speeches." *Congress and the Presidency*.
- * Powell, Richard J. 1999. "'Going Public' Revisited: Presidential Speechmaking and the Bargaining Setting in Congress." *Congress and the Presidency* 26: 153-70.
- * Barrett, Andrew. 2004. "Gone Public: The Impact of Going Public on Presidential Legislative Success." *American Politics Research* 32: 338-370.

- * Gronke, Paul and Brian Newman. 2003. "FDR to Clinton, Mueller to ?? A 'State of the Discipline' Review of Presidential Approval." *Political Research Quarterly* 56: 501-12.
- * Hager and Sullivan. 1994. "President-centered and Presidency-Centered Explanations of Presidential Public Activity." *American Journal of Political Science* 38: 1079-1103.
- * Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha, 2003. "Presidential Press Conferences over Time."
- * Ragsdale, Lyn. 1984. "The Politics of Presidential Speechmaking, 1949-1980," *American Political Science Review* 78: 971-984.
- * George C. Edwards III, William Mitchell, and Reed Welch, "Explaining Presidential Approval: The Significance of Issue Salience," *American Journal of Political Science* (February 1995): 108-134.
- * Samuel Kernell. 1978. "Explaining Presidential Popularity," *American Political Science Review* 72 (June): 506-522.
- * Donald R. Kinder. 1981. "Presidents, Prosperity, and Public Opinion," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 45 (Spring): 1-21.
- * Jon A. Krosnick and Donald R. Kinder, "Altering the Foundations of Support for the President through Priming," *American Political Science Review* 84 (June 1990): 497-512.
- * Nicholson, Stephen P., Gary M. Segura, and Nathan D. Woods. 2002. "Presidential Approval and the Mixed Blessing of Divided Government." *Journal of Politics*: 701-720.
- * Sacco, Joshua M., and Kevin Coe. 2021. *The Ubiquitous Presidency: Presidential Communication and Digital Democracy in Tumultuous Times*. Oxford University Press.

Week Four, September 8

Presidency and Media

- Michael Baruch Grossman and Martha Joynt Kumar, *Portraying the President* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981), Chapters 1, 10, and 11.
- Cohen, Jeffrey E. 2010. *Going Local: Presidential Leadership in the Post-Broadcast Age*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 4.
- Eshbaugh-Soha, Matthew, and Jeffrey S. Peake. 2011. *Breaking through the Noise: Presidential Leadership, Public Opinion, and the News Media*. Stanford University Press. Chapter 1.
- Eshbaugh-Soha, Matthew, and Joshua P. Montgomery. 2021. "The Rhetoric of Disruption: Trump and the Media." In *The Unorthodox Presidency of Donald J. Trump*, Rutledge and Rackaway, eds. University of Kansas Press: 258-78.
- * Daniel C. Hallin. 1984. "The Media, the War in Vietnam, and Political Support." *Journal of Politics* 46: 2-24
 - * Groeling, Tim. 2008. "Who's the Fairest of them All? *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 38: 631-57.
 - * George C. Edwards III and B. Dan Wood. 1999. "Who Influences Whom? The President, Congress, and the Media," *American Political Science Review*: 327-344.
 - * Frederick T. Steeper. 1978. "Public Response to Gerald Ford's Statements on Eastern Europe in the Second Debate," in George F. Bishop, Robert G. Meadow, and Marilyn Jackson-Beeck, eds., *The Presidential Debates: Media, Electoral, and Public Perspectives*. New York: Praeger. 81-101.
 - * Tim Groeling and Samuel Kernell. 1998 "Is Network News Coverage of the President Biased?" *Journal of Politics* 60 (November): 1,063-1,087.
 - * Kumar, Martha. 2008. *Managing the President's Message*. Johns Hopkins.
 - * Eshbaugh-Soha, Matthew and Jeffrey S. Peake. 2005. "Presidents and the Economic Agenda." *Political Research Quarterly* (March): 127-138.
 - * Joanne M. Miller and Jon A. Krosnick. 2000. "News Media Impact on the Ingredients of

- Presidential Evaluations: Politically Knowledgeable Citizens Are Guided by a Trusted Source," *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (April): 295-309.
- * Darrell M. West. 1991. "Television and Presidential Popularity in America," *British Journal of Political Science* 21: 199-214.
 - * Jon A. Krosnick and Donald R. Kinder, "Altering the Foundations of Support for the President through Priming," *American Political Science Review* 84 (June 1990): 497-512.
 - * Marc J. Hetherington. 1996. "The Media's Role in Forming Voters' National Economic Evaluations in 1992," *American Journal of Political Science* 40 (May): 372-395.
 - * Cohen, Jeffrey E. 2004. "If the News is Bad why are Presidential Polls so High?" *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 34: 493-515.

Week Five, September 15

Presidency and Congress I

Cohen, Jeffrey E. 2019. *The President on Capitol Hill*. Columbia University Press.

- Beckmann, Matthew. 2008 "The President's Playbook: White House Strategies for Lobbying Congress." *The Journal of Politics* 70: 407-419.
- Barrett, Andrew, and Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha. 2007. "Presidential Success on the Substance of Legislation." *Political Research Quarterly* 60: 100-112.
- Noble, Benjamin S. 2024. "Presidential Cues and the Nationalization of Congressional Rhetoric, 1973–2016." *American Journal of Political Science* 68: 1386–1402.
- * Mark A. Peterson, *Legislating Together* (Harvard University Press, 1990), Chapter 2.
 - * Jon R. Bond and Richard Fleisher. 1990. *The President in the Legislative Arena*. University of Chicago Press.
 - * Sarah A. Binder. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-96," *American Political Science Review* 93: 519-533.
 - * Edwards, *At the Margins*, Chapter 6, 8, and 11.
 - * James E. Campbell and Joe A. Sumners. 1990 "Presidential Coattails in Senate Elections," *American Political Science Review* 84: 513-524.
 - * George C. Edwards III. 1997. "Aligning Tests with Theory: Presidential Approval as a Source of Influence in Congress," *Congress and the Presidency* 24: 113-130.
 - * George C. Edwards III, Andrew Barrett, and Jeffrey Peake. 1997. "The Legislative Impact of Divided Government." *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 545-563.
 - * Bond, Jon R., Richard Fleisher, and B. Dan Wood. 2003. "The Marginal and Time-Varying Effect of Public Approval on Presidential Success in Congress." *Journal of Politics* 65: 92-110.
 - * Lonna Rae Atkeson and Randall W. Partin. 1995. "Economic and Referendum Voting: A Comparison of Gubernatorial and Senatorial Elections," *American Political Science Review* 89 (March): 99-107.
 - * Edwards, George C. III. 1991. "Presidential Influence in Congress: If we ask the wrong questions, we get the wrong answers." (A Response to Sullivan's Bank Account Presidency). *American Journal of Political Science* 35 (August): 724-29.
 - * Charles M. Cameron. 2000. *Veto Bargaining*. Cambridge, Chapters 4-6.
 - * George C. Edwards III and Andrew Barrett. 2000. "Presidential Agenda Setting in Congress," in Jon R. Bond and Richard Fleisher, eds., *Polarized Politics: Congress and the President in a Partisan Era*. CQ Press.
 - * Gilmour, John B. 2002. "Institutional and Individual Influences on the President's Veto." *Journal of Politics* (February): 198-218.

- * Jeffrey E. Cohen, Michael A. Krassa, and John A. Hamman. 1991. "The Impact of Presidential Campaigning on Midterm U.S. Senate Elections," *American Political Science Review* 85: 165-178.
- * Edwards, *At the Margins*, Chapter 3.
- * Lyn Ragsdale. 1980 "The Fiction of Congressional Elections as Presidential Events." *American Politics Quarterly*: 375-398.
- * Edwards, *At the Margins*, Chapters 2, 4, and 5

Week Six, September 22

Presidency and Congress II

- McCarty, Nolan, and Rose Razaghian. 1999. "Advice and Consent: Senate Responses to Executive Branch Nominations." *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 1122-43.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice, William Howell, and David E. Lewis. 2008. "Toward a Broader Understanding of Presidential Power: A Reevaluation of the Two Presidencies Thesis." *Journal of Politics* 70: 1-16.
- Peterson, David A.M., Lawrence J. Grossback, James A. Stimson, and Amy Gangl. 2003. "Congressional Response to Mandate Elections." *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 411-426.
- Kriner, Douglas L., and Eric Schickler. 2014. "Investigating the President: Committee Probes and Presidential Approval, 1953-2006." *The Journal of Politics* 76: 521-534.

Week Seven, September 29

Presidency and the Courts

- Black, Ryan C. and Ryan J. Owens. 2013. "A Built-In Advantage: The Office of the Solicitor General and the Supreme Court." *Political Research Quarterly* 66: 451-463.
- Shipan, Charles R., and Megan L. Shannon. 2003. "Delaying Justice(s): A Duration Analysis of Supreme Court Confirmations." *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 654-668.
- Hitt, Matthew P. 2013. "Presidential Success in Supreme Court Appointments: Informational Effects and Institutional Constraints." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 43: 792-813.
- Gardner, Paul J. and Sharece Thrower. 2023. "Presidential Influence on Judicial Review." *Journal of Politics* 85: 139 – 152.
- * Bond, Jon R., Richard Fleisher, Glen S. Krutz. 2009. "Malign Neglect." *Congress and the Presidency* 36: 226-243.
 - * Collins and Eshbaugh-Soha
 - * Bryon J. Moraski and Charles R. Shipan. 1999. "The Politics of Supreme Court Nominations: A Theory of Institutional Constraints and Choices," *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 1069-1095.
 - * Johnson, Timothy R., and Jason M. Roberts. 2004. "Presidential Capital and the Supreme Court Confirmation Process." *Journal of Politics* 66: 663-683.
 - * Goldman, Sheldon. 1995. *Picking Federal Judges*. Chapters 1, 8, and 9.
 - * Blackstone, Bethany, and Greg Goelzhauser. 2014. "Presidential Rhetoric Toward the Supreme Court." *Judicature*
 - * Krutz, Glen S., Richard Fleisher, and Jon R. Bond. 1998. "From Abe Fortas to Zöe Baird: Why Some Presidential Nominations Fail in the Senate." *American Political Science Review* 92: 871-881.
 - * Charles M. Cameron, Albert D. Cover, and Jeffrey A. Segal. 1990. "Senate Voting on Supreme Court Nominees: A Neoinstitutional Model," *American Political Science Review* 84: 525-538.

*Yates, Jeff and Andrew Whitford. 1998. "Presidential power and the US Supreme Court." *Political Research Quarterly* 51: 539-50.

Week Eight, October 6

Presidency and the Bureaucracy

- Wood, B. Dan. 1988. "Principals, Bureaucrats, and Responsiveness in Clean Air Enforcements." *American Political Science Review* 82: 213-234.
- Bednar, Nicholas R., and David E. Lewis. 2024. "Presidential Investment in the Administrative State." *American Political Science Review* 118: 442-57.
- Kinane, Christina M. 2021. "Control without Confirmation: The Politics of Vacancies in Presidential Appointments." *American Political Science Review* 115: 599-614.
- Potter, Rachel. 2017. "Slow-Rolling, Fast-Tracking, and the Pace of Bureaucratic Decisions in Rulemaking." *Journal of Politics* 79: 841-855.
- * Richard P. Nathan. 1983. *The Administrative Presidency*. Wiley, chapters 1-7.
- * Terry M. Moe. 1985. "The Politicized Presidency," in John E. Chubb and Paul E. Peterson, eds., *The New Directions in American Politics* (Brookings Institution).
- * B. Dan Wood and James E. Anderson. 1993. "The Politics of U.S. Antitrust Regulation," *American Journal of Political Science* 37 (February): 1-39.
- * Eisner, Marc Allen and Kenneth J. Meier. 1990. "Presidential Control Versus Bureaucratic Power: Explaining the Reagan Revolution in Antitrust." *American Journal of Political Science* 34 (February): 269-287.
- * Potter, Rachel. 2019. *Bending the Rules: Procedural Politicking in the Bureaucracy*. University of Chicago Press.
- * Lewis, David E. 2003. *Presidents and the Politics of Agency Design*. Stanford University Press.
- * Lewis, David E. 2008. *The Politics of Presidential Appointments*. Princeton University Press.
- * Aberbach, Putnam, and Rockman. 1981. *Bureaucrats and Politicians in Western Democracies*. Harvard University Press.
- * Moe, Terry M. 1982. "Regulatory Performance and Presidential Administration." *American Journal of Political Science* 26: 197-224.
- * Carpenter, Daniel P. 1996. "Adaptive Signal Processing, Hierarchy, and Budgetary Control in Federal Regulation." *American Political Science Review* 90: 283-302.

Week Nine, October 13

Unilateral Action

- Christenson, Dino P., and Douglas L. Kriner. 2020. *The Myth of the Imperial Presidency*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Glen S. Krutz and Jeffrey S. Peake. 2006. "The Changing Nature of Presidential Policymaking on International Agreements." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36: 391-409.
- Thrower, Sharece. 2017. "To Revoke or Not Revoke? The Political Determinants of Executive Order Longevity." *American Journal of Political Science* 61: 642-656.
- Kaufman, Aaron R., and Jon C. Rogowski. 2024. "Divided Government, Strategic Substitution, and Presidential Unilateralism." *American Journal of Political Science* 68: 816-31.
- * Howell, William. 2003. *Power without persuasion: the politics of direct presidential action*. Princeton University Press.
- * Mayer, Kenneth R. 2001. *With the Stroke of a Pen, Executive Orders and Presidential Power*. Princeton.

- * Howell, William, and Jon Pevehouse. 2005. "Presidents, Congress, and the Use of Force." *International Organization* 59: 209-232.
- * Moe, Terry, and William Howell. 1999. "A Theory of Unilateral Action." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 29: 850-871.
- * Mayer, Ken. 1999. "Executive Orders and Presidential Power." *Journal of Politics* 61:445-466.
- * Bailey, Jeremy, and Brandon Rottinghaus. 2014. "Reexamining the Use of Unilateral Orders." *American Politics Research* 42: 472-502.

Week Ten, October 20

Institutionalization and Individualism

Beckmann, Matthew. *The President's Day: Managing Time in the Oval Office*. Columbia University Press.

- Krause, George A., and Jeffrey E. Cohen. 2000. "Opportunity, Constraints, and the Development of the Institutional Presidency: The Case of Executive Order Issuance, 1939–1996." *Journal of Politics* 62: 88-114.
- Dickinson and Lebo. 2000. "Reexamining the Growth of the Institutional Presidency, 1940-2000." *The Journal of Politics* 69: 206-219.
- Alexander L. and Juliette L. George, *Presidential Personality and Performance* (Westview, 1998), chapter 2, 5 and 6.
- * Alexander George. 1980. *Presidential Decision making in Foreign Policy*. 1980. Chapter 1-4.
- * Alexander L. George. 1972. "The Case for Multiple Advocacy in Making Foreign Policy," *American Political Science Review* 66: 765-781.
- * Richard K. Betts. 1982. *Surprise Attack*. Brookings Institution. Chapters 3-5.
- * Simon, Herbert A. 1997. *Administrative Behavior*, 4th edition. The Free Press.
- * Joseph Cooper and William W. West. 1988. "Presidential Power and Republican Government: The Theory and Practice of OMB Review of Agency Rules," *Journal of Politics* 50 (November): 864-895.
- * Ragsdale, Lyn and John Theis. 1997. "The Institutionalization of the American Presidency." *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 1280-1318.
- * Rudalevige, Andrew. 2002. *Managing the President's Program: Presidential Leadership and Legislative Policy Formulation*. Princeton University Press.
- * Ponder, Daniel E. 1996. "Three Strategies of Presidential Policy Making." *Congress and the Presidency* (Fall): 113-137.

Week Eleven, October 27

The Historical Presidency

Azari, Julia. 2025. *Backlash Presidents: From Transformative to Reactionary Leaders in American History*. Princeton University Press.

- Skowronek, Stephen. 1998. "Presidential Leadership in Political Time." In *Presidents and the Political System*, Nelson, ed. CQ Press: 111-156.
- * Laracey, Mel. 2021. *Informing a Nation: The Newspaper Presidency of Thomas Jefferson*. University of Michigan Press.
- * Tulis, Jeffrey K. 1998. "The Two Constitutional Presidencies." In Michael Nelson, ed. *The Presidency and the Political System*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Week Twelve, November 3**Decision Making**

Edwards III, George C. 2022. *Prisoners of Their Premises: How Unexamined Assumptions Lead to War and Other Policy Debacles*. University of Chicago Press.

Greenstein, Fred I. and John P. Burke. 1989. "The Dynamics of Presidential Reality Testing: Evidence from Two Vietnam Decisions." *Political Science Quarterly* 104: 557- 580.

Week Thirteen, November 10**Trump in a Scholarly Context**

Edwards, George C. 2026. "Politics Symposium: Understanding the Early Trump 47 Presidency." *PS: Political Science* 59: 447-499.

*Read each of the eight articles associated with this assessment.

November 17**Paper workday****December 1****Paper due, in-class discussion*****Assignment: Final Paper***

The final paper should address a topic related to the American presidency. You may research any topic that relates to it, but I suggest that you focus on one of the daily or weekly topics to narrow your choices. You could write, for instance, on the relationship between the president and the bureaucracy, courts, or Congress; how the president attempts to lead the public; or the relationship between the presidency and the media. You may wish to explore presidential success in Congress in light of recent evidence suggesting that Congress is becoming more partisan. You should strive to be strategic, selecting a topic that relates to the presidency, but also that may assist in your research concerning your dissertation, thesis, or preparation for comprehensive exams.

One option is a field essay, in which the paper will focus on a particular area of the presidency, and evaluate what we know about that topic. This paper should not proceed in an article by article summary, but rather, it should be organized topically. For example, if you explore presidential success in Congress, you would evaluate what the literature concludes about the effectiveness of different variables, e.g., divided government, polarization, or presidential approval ratings. Your essay should thus be organized according to these variables. In addition to summarizing the evidence, you should offer a critical evaluation. Is the evidence convincing? Where is the literature not convincing? Are there any questions remaining in this area of the literature that you think political scientists should explore? You should cover most of the important literature on your topic.

A second option is a research paper on the presidency. This paper should ask an important question on the presidency, review relevant literature, and develop a theory and testable hypotheses. You will need to test those hypotheses using relevant data, discuss the findings, and complete your paper with a conclusion that summarizes the paper and discusses the implications of your research.

This paper will follow a standard conference paper format for political science. Your paper will have a title page, with all of the appropriate information, including the title of the paper, your name,

and your contact information. If you write a research paper, you should also include an abstract at the bottom of the title page. An abstract is typically 150-200 words.

You should include a reference list and cite all references in the text, consistent with the style of the *American Journal of Political Science*. Each table should be numbered consecutively and on a separate page after the references. Please see the APSA style manual for additional information and advice.

This research paper should be 15-20 pages of text in length. It should be typed (of course), in either New Times Roman or Garamond, 12-point font. Use default margins of 1.25 inches and number your pages.

The first step to writing a good paper is organization. Use an outline. If you know how information fits into your paper before you write, you will find writing to be much easier. Use headings. Headings will allow you to break up a lengthy paper into several smaller papers. This will also make writing easier, especially if you have not yet written a 18-20 page paper in your graduate career.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Researching the Presidency

Fred I. Greenstein and Richard H. Immerman, "What Did Eisenhower Tell Kennedy about Indochina? The Politics of Misperception," *The Journal of American History* 79 (September 1992): 568-586.

Karen M. Hult, Charles E. Walcott, and Thomas Weko, "Qualitative Research and the Study of the U.S. Presidency," *Congress & the Presidency* 26 (Fall 1999): 133-152.

Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make* (Harvard University Press, 1993).

George C. Edwards III, Bert A. Rockman, and John H. Kessel, eds. 1993. *Researching the Presidency*.

The Public Presidency

Robert Y. Shapiro and Lawrence R. Jacobs. 2001. "Presidents, and Polling: Politicians, Pandering, and the Study of Democratic Responsiveness," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 31: 150-167.

Richard C. Waterman, Hank C. Jenkins-Smith, and Carol L. Silva. 1999. "The Expectations Gap Thesis: Public Attitudes toward an Incumbent President," *Journal of Politics* 61: 944-966.

Bruce Altschuler, *LBJ and the Public Polls* (University of Florida Press, 1990).

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