

University of Georgia
POLS 4610, Spring 2008
MWF, 1:25pm-2:15pm
Baldwin 264

Dr. D. Jason Berggren
Office Hours: M/W 3:30-5:00pm
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U.S. PRESIDENCY

Course Overview:

This course is designed to acquaint students with the development and fundamental roles of the U.S. presidency. The primary objectives of this course are to describe, discuss, explore, explain, and analyze: (1) the origins and development of the U.S. presidency, (2) the formal and informal qualifications for the office, (3) the presidential politics of recognition, (4) the indispensability of the Washington presidency; (5) the presidential and vice-presidential selection and election process, (6) relations with Congress and the Supreme Court, (7) the concepts of presidential leadership and greatness, (8) presidential war powers, and (9) the presidency of George W. Bush.

Required Texts:

Ellis, Richard J., and Michael Nelson, eds. *Debating the Presidency: Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive*. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2006.

Greenstein, Fred I. *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to George W. Bush*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Jacobson, Gary C. *A Divider, Not a Uniter: George W. Bush and the American People*. New York: Pearson-Longman, 2006.

Landy, Marc, and Sidney M. Milkis. *Presidential Greatness*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2000.

Pfiffner, James P. *The Modern Presidency*. 5th edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson, 2007.

Other Selected Readings Will Be Announced.

Course Presenter

D. Jason Berggren has recently earned a Ph.D. in political science from Florida International University, Miami, Florida. His dissertation was entitled: “‘I Had a Different Way of Governing’: The Evangelical Presidential Style of Jimmy Carter and His Mission for Middle East Peace.” He has published articles in the *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *White House Studies*, *Middle East Affairs Journal*, *The Forum*, *Journal of Church and State*, *Justice System Journal*, and the *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*.

Course Policies

Students are personally responsible for all assignments. Students are expected to attend each class and to be on time. Attendance will be recorded at each meeting. Regular attendance is critical. If a student is unable to attend class, he/she is responsible for getting assignments and notes from another student. If you know that you will be absent, please inform the instructor beforehand. If you do not know in advance, wait until the next class and discuss the missed class with the professor.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in a fair and timely manner.

There are seven ground rules for acceptable classroom behavior:

- 1) Read each assignment prior to the date on which it is scheduled. Please note that not all assigned readings will be discussed in class. Nevertheless, students are responsible for reading them.
- 2) Plan to take all examinations and submit all writing assignments at the scheduled times.
- 3) Be on time. Class shall begin and end promptly. When possible, please inform the professor if you will be arriving late or leaving early. If class is in session, be courteous while leaving or entering the classroom.
- 4) Create an atmosphere of mutual respect. Be respectful to the opinions and beliefs of others. This is extremely important in a political science class!
- 5) The University of Georgia has an honor code. Each student is responsible for knowing it and abiding by it.
- 6) Each student is strongly encouraged to talk with the professor before and after class if he/she is having difficulty with the material or has any questions or concerns regarding the course.
- 7) Keep this syllabus. It's the contract for this course between the students and the instructor.

Assessment/Grading Criteria

Assessment will be based on the students' mastery of course objectives through the on-time completion of reading and writing assignments, active and thoughtful participation in class activities, and performance on examinations.

The final grade for the course will be cumulative and based on the following distribution:

- (350) - Final Examination
- (250) - Midterm Examination (In-Class and Take-Home)
- (150) - Three Short Assignments (50 points each)
- (150) - 1 Reflection Essay (4-5 pages)
- (100) - Class Attendance and Participation

A	=	93-100%	A	=	930-1000
A-	=	90-92%	A-	=	900-929
B+	=	87-89%	B+	=	870-899
B	=	83-86%	B	=	830-869
B-	=	80-82%	B-	=	800-829
C+	=	77-79%	C+	=	770-799
C	=	73-76%	C	=	730-769
C-	=	70-72%	C-	=	700-729
D	=	60-69%	D	=	600-699
F	=	below 60%	F	=	599 & below

Writing Assignments

Essay Assignment

Students will write one reflective essay (4-5 pages).

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, and in compliance with all of the formal elements and standards of academic writing. Pages are to be properly paginated. On the first page should be found the student's name, the course number and course title, the instructor's name, the due date, and essay topic. Students must properly cite sources used (e.g. books, scholarly journals, newspaper/magazine articles, audio-visual materials, and the internet). Any style (e.g., MLA, APSA) may be used, so long as the one you choose, you are consistent. Gender inclusive language is highly encouraged where applicable. Earning credit will be based on a student's knowledge of the subject, use of higher thinking skills (analysis, interpretation, synthesis, and evaluation), content, grammar, spelling, proper documentation, and format).

Schedule, Agenda, and Assignments

January 7 **Welcome & Course Overview**

Assignment: NONE.

January 9-11 **Iowa and New Hampshire**

Assignment: Selected Readings TBA.

January 14-18 **Presidential Nominations**

Assignment: Pfiffner, "The President and the Public"; Berggren, "Two Parties, Two Types of Nominees"; Selected Readings TBA.

January 21 No Class!!! (MLK Day)

January 23-28 **Who Gets to be President? Formal and Informal Qualifications**

Assignment: Saad, "Republicans and Democrats Seek Similar Qualities in 44th President"; Jones, "Some Americans Reluctant to Vote for Mormon, 72-Year-Old Presidential Candidates"; Allen, "Can a Mormon be President?"; Page, "A Dynasty by Any Other Name"; Thomma, "Age could have an impact"; Davies, "A presidency open to all U.S. citizens?"

January 30 **Senators vs. Governors as Presidential Candidates**

Assignment: Baker, "The Senate Jinx"; Burden, "United States Senators as Presidential Candidates."

February 2 No Class!!! (Out of Town)

February 4-6 **Super-Duper Tuesday: What's at Stake, Who Won?**

Assignment: TBA.

- February 8-11 **Heartbeat Away: Vice Presidential Selection**
- Assignment: Nelson, "Choosing the Vice President"; Moore, "Edwards Pick Compares Favorably"; Quayle, "Standing Firm: Personal Reflections"; Handout on Vice-Presidential Running Mates
- February 13-18 **Presidential Politics of Recognition: Appointment Power and Religious Rhetoric**
- Assignment: Pfiffner, "The Cabinet and the Executive Branch"; Berggren, "Jefferson Davis, Religion, and the Politics of Recognition"; Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 75-91;
- February 20-22 **Presidential Rhetoric and Politics of Symbolism**
- Assignment: Selected Speeches; Walz, "Religion and the American Presidency"; Cronin, "The Symbolic and Shamanistic Functions."
- February 25-27 **Debating the Presidential Selection and Election Process**
- Assignment: Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 14-44.
- February 29 **Midterm (In-Class Exam; Take-Home Exam Due)**
- FYI: *Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline (March 4)*
- March 3 **President Carter's View of Politics and the Congress**
- Assignment: None.

March 5-7, 17 **The President in a Separated System Sharing Power**

Assignment: Pfiffner, "The President and Congress"; Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 110-124; Hess, "Presidents and Congressional War Resolutions"; Edwards, "Reforming the 'President'"

March 10-14 No Class!!! (Spring Break)

March 19-21 **George Washington, Indispensable President**

Assignment: Pfiffner, "The Presidency: Origins and Powers"; Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 1-13; Greenstein, "Presidential Difference in the Early Republic"; Landy and Milkis, *Presidential Greatness*, 12-39.

March 24-28 **Qualities of Presidential Leadership**

Assignment: Greenstein, *The Presidential Difference* (all); Pfiffner, "The White House Staff and Organization"; Pfiffner, "Abuse of Power and Presidential Reputation"; Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 159-178.

March 31-
April 11 **Presidential Greatness**

Assignment: Landy and Milkis, *Presidential Greatness*, 1-11, 153-243 (Case of FDR); Schlesinger, "Ratings the Presidents,"; Lonnstrom and Kelly, "Ratings the Presidents: A Tracking Study,"; Tolson, "The 10 Worst Presidents"; Sanchez, "Old Habits Die Hard."; Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 179-197.

April 14-18

Presidential War Powers, Rally Effects, and Electoral Performance

Assignment: Pfiffner, "The President and National Security"; Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 92-109; Ambrose, "The Presidency and Foreign Policy"; Landy and Milkis, *Presidential Greatness*, 114-152 (Case of Lincoln); Baker, "Struggling Wartime Presidents"; Krauthammer, "Medals Don't Make a President"; Adler, "Presidential Greatness as an Attribute of Warmaking"; Hetherington and Nelson, "Anatomy of a Rally Effect."

April 18

Reflective Essay Assignment Due:

What are the Factors of Presidential Greatness? What do the top-rated presidents hold in common? What do the bottom-rated presidents share? (Essay 4-5 pages)

April 21-28

The Presidency of George W. Bush

Assignment: Jacobson, *A Divider, Not a Uniter*; GW Bush, *A Charge to Keep*, chapter 1; Berggren and Rae, "Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush"; Taranto, "How's He Doing?"

April 25

No Class!!! (Attending Symposium on Religion & Politics)

April 30

FINAL EXAM (In-Class Exam)

Exam will be cumulative.

12:00pm – 3:00pm

FYI

**Grades Due (May 13)*