

University of Georgia
POLS 4610, Fall 2007
MWF, 2:30pm-3:20pm

Dr. D. Jason Berggren
Office Hours: M/W 3:30-5:00pm
or by appointment 303A Baldwin
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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, (9) the presidency of George W. Bush, and (10) presidential relations with the South.

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.

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*.

Other Selected Readings:

(many of these will be emailed to you; others will be either given as handouts or placed on library reserve)

Adler, David Gray. "Presidential Greatness as an Attribute of Warmaking." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 33.3 (September 2003): 466-483.

Allen, Mike. "Can a Mormon Be President?" *Time*, December 4, 2006, 50, 53.

Ambrose, Stephen E. "The Presidency and Foreign Policy." *Foreign Affairs* 70.5 (Winter 1991-1992): 120-137.

Applebome, Peter. "From Carter to Clinton, A South in Transition." *New York Times*, November 10, 1992.

Baker, Ross K. "Even struggling wartime presidents are tough to beat." *USA Today*, August 5, 2004, 15A.

Berggren, D. Jason. "Jefferson Davis, Religion, and the Politics of Recognition." *White House Studies* 5.2 (2005): 231-241.

Berggren, D. Jason. "Two Parties, Two Types of Nominees, Two Paths to Winning a Presidential Nomination, 1972-2004." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 37.2 (June 2007): 203-227.

Berggren, D. Jason. "'I'm a Southerner': The Southern Pride and Burden of Jimmy Carter." Manuscript.

Berggren, D. Jason, and Nicol C. Rae. "Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush: Faith, Foreign Policy, and an Evangelical Presidential Style." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36.4 (December 2006): 606-632.

Brookhiser, Richard. "What's a Resume Got to Do with It?" *Time*, January 29, 2007, 19.

Burden, Barry C. "United States Senators as Presidential Candidates." *Political Science Quarterly* 117.1 (Spring 2002): 81-102.

Bush, George W. "A Charge to Keep." Chapter in *A Charge to Keep*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1999.

Cronin, Thomas E. "The Symbolic and Shamanistic Functions of the American Presidency." *Political Chronicle* 1.2 (September 1989): 8-13.

Davies, Frank. "A presidency open to all U.S. citizens?" *Miami Herald*, December 12, 2004, 1A-2A.

Edwards, George C., III. "Reforming the 'President': The Individual as Leader." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 20.3 (Summer 1987): 621-627.

Elson, John. "Just Who Can Send Us to War?" *Time*, December 17, 1990, 3.

Fisher, Louis. "Foreign Policy Powers of the President and Congress." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 499 (September 1988): 148-159.

Greenstein, Fred I. "Presidential Difference in the Early Republic: The Highly Disparate Leadership Styles of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36.3 (September 2006): 373-390.

- Hess, Gary R. "Presidents and the Congressional War Resolutions of 1991 and 2002." *Political Science Quarterly* 121.1 (Spring 2006): 93-118.
- Hetherington, Marc J., and Michael Nelson. "Anatomy of a Rally Effect: George W. Bush and the War on Terrorism." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 21.4 (January 2003): 37-42.
- Jones, Jeffrey M. "Some Americans Reluctant to Vote for Mormon, 72-Year-Old Presidential Candidates." *Gallup Poll News Service*, February 20, 2007.
- Krauthammer, Charles. "Medals Don't Make a President." *Time*, February 23, 2004, 72.
- Leuchtenberg, William E. "FDR: Georgia Squire." Chapter in *The White House Looks South: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Lyndon B. Johnson*. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2005.
- Light, Paul. "Vice-Presidential Influence Under Rockefeller and Mondale." *Political Science Quarterly* 98.4 (Winter 1983-1984): 617-640.
- Link, Arthur S. "Woodrow Wilson: The American as Southerner." *Journal of Southern History* 36.1 (February 1970): 3-17.
- Lonnstrom, Douglas A., and Thomas O. Kelly II. "Rating the Presidents: A Tracking Study." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 33.3 (September 2003): 625-634.
- Moore, David W. "Edwards Pick Compares Favorably With Recent Vice Presidential Candidates." *Gallup Poll News Service*, July 7, 2004.
- Nelson, Michael. "Choosing the Vice President." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 21.4 (Autumn 1988): 858-868.
- Page, Susan. "A dynasty by any other name." *USA Today*, March 5, 2002, 1D-2D.
- Quayle, Dan. "Standing Firm: Personal Reflections on being Vice President." In *At the President's Side: The Vice Presidency in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Timothy Walch, 169-179. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1997.
- Robinson, Eugene. "Are we ready for President Obama?" *Washington Post*, July 31, 2007.
- Saad, Lydia. "Republicans and Democrats Seek Similar Qualities in 44th President." *Gallup Poll News Service*, April 4, 2007.
- Sanchez, J.M. "Old Habits Die Hard: The Textbook Presidency Is Alive and Well." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 29.1 (March 1996): 63-66.
- Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. "Rating the Presidents: Washington to Clinton." *Political Science Quarterly* 112.2 (Summer 1997): 179-190.
- Taranto, James. "How's He Doing?: Bush is Average, But Far from Ordinary." *Wall Street Journal*, September 12, 2005.
- Thomma, Steven. "Age could have an impact in any presidential bid by McCain." *Miami Herald*, August 27, 2006.
- Tolson, Jay. "The 10 Worst Presidents." *U.S. News & World Report*, February 18, 2007.

Walz, Jeff. "Religion and the American Presidency." In *In God We Trust? Religion and American Political Life*, edited by Corwin E. Smidt, 191-211. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Wolffe, Richard. "Well, What Do You Know?" *Newsweek*, August 6, 2007, 30-31.

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 (Blue Book required)
- (250) - Midterm Examination (Blue Book required)
- (300) - 2 Reflection Essays (4-5 pages) (150 each)
- (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 Assignments

Students will write two short reflective essays (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

August 17 **Welcome & Course Overview**

Assignment: NONE.

August 20-24 **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"; Robinson, "Are we ready for President Obama?"; Thomma, "Age could have an impact."

August 27 **Discussion: Presidency by Birthright?**

Assignment: Davies, "A presidency open to all U.S. citizens?".

August 29-31 **Assignment and Class Discussion:**

How Does the Current Field of Presidential Candidates Fare in Comparison to Historic Informal Qualification Patterns? How do the leading contenders fit or not fit the prevailing patterns? (Essay 4-5 pages).

Leading contenders are defined as follows: Democrats (H. Clinton, Obama, Edwards, and Richardson); Republicans (Giuliani, McCain, F. Thompson, and Romney).

Turn in Essay on Wednesday, September 5.

September 3 No Class!!! (Labor Day)

- September 5-7 **Presidential Politics of Recognition: Appointment Power and Rhetoric**
- Assignment: Pfiffner, "The Cabinet and the Executive Branch"; Berggren, "Jefferson Davis, Religion, and the Politics of Recognition"; Handout on Vice-Presidential Running Mates; Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 75-91; Walz, "Religion and the American Presidency."
- September 10-14 **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.
- September 17-24 **Presidential Nominations**
- Assignment: Pfiffner, "The President and the Public"; Berggren, "Two Parties, Two Types of Nominees"; Brookhiser, "What's a Resume Got to Do with It?"; Wolffe, "Well, What Do You Know?"; Other Selected Readings TBA.
- September 26-28 **Heartbeat Away: Vice Presidential Selection**
- Assignment: Nelson, "Choosing the Vice President"; Moore, "Edwards Pick Compares Favorably"; Quayle, "Standing Firm: Personal Reflections"; Light, "Vice-Presidential Influence Under Rockefeller and Mondale."
- October 1-3 **Debating the Presidential Selection and Election Process**
- Assignment: Ellis and Nelson, *Debating the Presidency*, 14-44.
- October 5 **Midterm (In-Class Exam; Blue Book Needed)**

October 8-17 **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"; Fisher, "Foreign Policy Powers"; Elson, "Who Can Send Us to War?"; Cronin, "The Symbolic and Shamanistic Functions"; Edwards, "Reforming the 'President'"; Burden, "United States Senators as Presidential Candidates."

October 19-24 **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.

October 26 No Class!!! (Fall Break)

October 29- Nov. 7 **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.

November 9-19 **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."

November 16 No Class!!! (Attending GPSA Conference)

November 19

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)

November 21-23 No Class!!! (Thanksgiving)

November 26-30 **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?"

December 3, 4, 5 **The South and the Presidency**

Assignment: Link, "Wilson: American as Southerner"; Leuchtenberg,
"FDR: Georgia Squire"; Berggren, " 'I'm a Southerner':
Jimmy Carter"; Applebome, "From Carter to Clinton."

December 10-14 **FINAL EXAM WEEK (In-Class Exam; Blue Book Needed)**

Exam will be cumulative. Date and Time TBA.

FYI

**Grades Due (December 18)*