

PSC 305  
The American Presidency  
Spring, 2007  
Prof's Office Hrs: Wed: 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Thurs: 3:00 - 4:00 and by appt

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Tue 4:00 - 5:30 PM)

## **SYLLABUS**

This course will focus on the historical evolution of the office of the President of the United States. During our 200-plus years, it has been changed dramatically by the actions of particular incumbents. Special attention will be paid to changes in the balance of power between the presidency and Congress.

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### **Your grade for this course will be based upon:**

- The results of two written examinations (20% each)
- Weekly, graded, in-class discussions (40%)  
These will be based on the assigned readings. A packet containing all questions is available at the UNLV Bookstore.
- Scores on presidential video tests (20%)
  - Presidential video biographies will be viewed weekly in the UNLV Library on an out-of-class basis: twenty-plus hours of viewing between January and May. This assignment takes the place of a term paper.

**Policy regarding make up-exams:** Ordinarily no makeups will be given. However, if extraordinary circumstances seem to require one, then students must do the following in order to qualify: (1) inform the instructor of the problem at some time prior to the exam itself and (2) provide documentation afterwards. All make-up exams will be given on the afternoon of May 2, 2007.

**ERes:** UNLV's Electronic Reserve Reading Service: All readings other than those in your textbooks are available on the internet at <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu>. At this site, input the bar code from your UNLV ID card and then simply follow the prompts provided by the system. If you have any questions or if problems arise, call the Library's Circulation Department at 895-2111.

**Cell Phones:** Please be certain turn off all cell phones prior to the start of each class. If your cell rings during class you will receive one warning. After that you will be asked to leave class for the rest of the day.

**Recording:** I will be happy to allow you to record the lectures/discussions, if you ask permission. However, any unauthorized recording (on cell phone, camera, recorder, etc) in class will subject you to civil suit.

**The UNLV Disability Resource Center** (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137. Their number is (702) 895-0866. For additional information please visit <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/drc>.

**Safety Warning:** Last semester there were attacks and carjackings in UNLV parking lots. These occurred during "evening class" hours. Be alert. Walk to your vehicles in groups.

The books and materials to be purchased for this course are:

- Milkis & Nelson, The American Presidency (4th ed.)
- Academic Printing Services, UNLV, "The American Presidency - PSC 305"  
Discussion Questions Packet
- Conlin, The American Past (8<sup>th</sup> ed.)

## Reading & Discussion Assignments

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Date	Assignment Due On That Date
January 17	- Buy the books and the packet of Discussion Questions
January 24	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapters 3 & 4 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , Chapters 11 & 12 - ERes, <u>Presidential Leadership: An Introduction</u> . Source: Edwards and Wayne, <u>Presidential Leadership</u> , Chapter 1 - ERes, "Chaos Overran Iraq Plan in '06..." New York Times
January 31	- Milkis and Nelson, Chapter 5. - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , Chapters 15, 16 & 20
February 7	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 6 and pp 167-74 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , Chapters 23 & 24 plus pages 408 - 418
February 14	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 7 - completion - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , Chapters 25 (pp. 418-423) and 26 & pp 538-552
February 21	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapter 8 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , pp 553-560; and 589-599
February 28	- Milkis and Nelson, <u>The American Presidency</u> , Chapters 9 & 10 - Conlin, <u>The American Past</u> , pp 599-601; Chapter 37, pp 628-634
March 7	- <b><u>No New Reading: Mid-Term Exam</u></b> (covering all class materials through February 28. But no TV documentaries)
March 14	Spring Break - No Class

- March 21
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, pp. 270-286
  - Conlin, The American Past, Chapters 42, 43, 44
- March 28
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, pp. 286-308
  - Conlin, The American Past, Chapter 45 and pp. 763-769
- April 4
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, pp. 309-326
  - Conlin, The American Past, pp 769-781; Chapter 48
  - ERes, The General and World War III. Source: Rhodes, Richard, “The General and World War III”, The New Yorker, June 19, 1995, pp. 47-59.
  - ERes, We Were Wrong, Terribly Wrong. Source: McNamara, Robert, “We Were Wrong, Terribly Wrong”, In Retrospect, excerpts
- April 11
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, pp. 326-349
  - Conlin, The American Past, Chapter 49
- April 18
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, Chapters 13 & 14
  - Conlin, The American Past, Chapter 50
- April 25
- Conlin, The American Past, pp 834-846
  - ERes, President Clinton’s Impeachment and Senate Trial. Source: Pfiffner, President Clinton’s Impeachment and Senate Trial
- May 2
- Milkis and Nelson, The American Presidency, Chapter 15
  - ERes, The Contemporary Presidency-The Bush White House: First Appraisals, Source, Tenpas and Hess
    - ERes, Pfiffner: Assessing the Bush Presidency, Source: Gregg, G. and Rozell, M. (2004) Considering the Bush Presidency, Oxford University Press, pp. 1 - 20
  - ERes, The Hidden Power
  - ERes, Presidential Signing Statements
  - ERes, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Steven Covey