

**The University of Oklahoma**  
**The American Presidency**  
**Political Science 3163**  
Fall 2007

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TTH 9:00 - 10:15 am  
355 Adams Hall  
Office Hours: 2:00 - 3:00 on  
Tuesday and Thursday  
and by appointment

**Course Objectives**

The focus of this course is twofold: the evolution of power in the presidency and the use of this power by those who hold the office. By studying the president's relationships and responsibilities, we will gain a better understanding of the opportunities and limitations of the president in the contemporary political system. We will address the question of how the presidency developed from a relatively weak office, subservient to the legislative branch, to become the most powerful political office in the world. In this analysis, we will examine the tension between the personal leadership styles and the institutional constraints of the presidency to better understand why presidents and those associated with presidents act as they do and the consequences of these actions.

**Required Texts**

Burns, James MacGregor. 2006. *Running Alone: Presidential Leadership, JFK to Bush II*. Cambridge, MA: Basic Books. ISBN: 0-465-00832-1.

Edwards, George C. 2007. *Governing by Campaigning: The Politics of the Bush Presidency*. New York, NY: Pearson Longman. ISBN: 0-205-52962-9.

Edwards, George, and Stephen J. Wayne. 2006. *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN: 0-534-60402-1.

Rudalevige, Andrew. 2005. *The New Imperial Presidency: Renewing Presidential Power after Watergate*. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press. ISBN: 0-472-11430-1.

Waterman, Richard. 2007. *The Changing American Presidency: New Perspectives on Presidential Power*. Mason, OH: Atomic Dog (Thomson). ISBN: 1-592-60286-X.

Reading packet from Crimson & Creme Copy Shop in the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance/Participation**

Each student is expected to complete the reading assignment prior to class and be prepared for class discussion. Students are encouraged to raise questions and to discuss topics of interest during class. To do well in this class, a student must prepare for class, attend class, participate in class discussion, and complete and submit all assignments. Attendance will be taken at class meetings and absences will be reflected in the final grade. Students are allowed up to two absences without penalty, regardless of the reason. Once the student has three absences, one-half of the participation points will be lost. All participation points are lost when the student has four absences.

**Desire to Learn**

This class will use Desire to Learn – a web-based course management tool which is free to all students at <http://learn.ou.edu>. This site provides many tools for students such as calendars, e-mail options, and for this class, all the important course documents, such as study guides, announcements, etc. It is the student's responsibility to check D2L frequently for announcements and changes in the schedule, if they should occur.

### Writing Assignments

There are two written assignments in this course, both which must be submitted by the start of class on the due date. The first paper is a worksheet which will be given to you on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> in class. This assignment requires research on an individual president (to be chosen in class on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>) and is due on **Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**.

The second writing assignment is a research paper on a topic chosen by the student which pertains to this class. The topic must be chosen by the beginning of class on **Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**. A two-page, written topic statement detailing how this topic will be developed and a preliminary bibliography is due no later than **Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. Failure to submit the topic statement and preliminary bibliography on time will result in a reduction of one letter grade on the final grade of the paper. There may be a limit on the number of students writing on the same topic, so be sure to have an alternate choice.

Criteria for the paper can be found in the Research folder on D2L. Be sure to read and follow these instructions closely. The final paper must be submitted on the date the assignment is due. (**Due by 9:00 am on Tuesday November 20<sup>th</sup>**)

### Group Work

Some time during the first two weeks of class, students will be assigned to groups to work on projects for the semester. There are three projects, each of which will involve a presentation of one book being read in this class. The three books for the projects are Governing by Campaigning, The New Imperial Presidency, and Running Alone: Presidential Leadership, JFK to Bush II, (See the class schedule for the dates of these discussions.)

Each group will have five (5) students and each group will have five minutes to make a presentation of each book on the assigned date. Each group must have:

- one student who will be the presenter and will help develop the Power Point presentation
- one student who will put together a Power Point presentation with the presenter
- three reporters who will have one of these specific assignments (each at least 4 pages)
  - ▶ one reporter will write a summary of the book
  - ▶ one reporter will write an analysis of how the book addresses the focus of the course in regard to the evolution of the presidency and presidential leadership
  - ▶ one reporter will write a critique of the book

Each student must have a different role for each book and each student will be graded individually on their contribution to the presentation for each book. Students who are absent or who do not participate will not be given credit for the assignment. All groups will give their presentations on the same day, so timing is essential. In fairness to the other groups, no group will be allowed to go over their allotted five minutes for their presentation. The group presentations are worth approximately 20% of the final grade. If any group does not have a student who is familiar with Power Point, please let me know and I can help you with this

problem.

On the day of the presentations, each group will hand in the following in their group file folder:

A printed copy of the Power Point Slides  
the book summary  
the focus paper  
the book critique

Presentation Dates: 10/9 Governing by Campaigning  
10/30 The New Imperial Presidency  
11/27 Running Alone

### Examinations

There will be two exams given on the dates listed in the course schedule. All students are expected to take the exams at the regularly scheduled times. Make-up exams will not be given unless arrangements for the makeup are completed before the regularly scheduled exam begins. This means leaving a message on the phone or sending an email does not complete the arrangements; you must have confirmation from me and the date for you to take the exam must be set before the regular exam begins.

Exam Dates: Midterm Exam - Thursday, October 11th  
Final Exam - Friday, December 14, 8:00 - 10:00 am

### Course Behavior Guidelines

Students will comply strictly with the requirements of the OU Academic Misconduct policy which can be found in the OU Student Handbook. The policy states “academic misconduct includes (a) cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; (b) assisting others in any such act; or c) attempts to engage in such acts.”

The code currently runs to seven pages of small-font type, the basics are much simpler: students may not cheat; those who do will be penalized; those who are accused deserve due process and a fair hearing.

1. Students will arrive on time for class and will not leave class until the class is over unless the student notifies the instructor prior to the beginning of class. Due to the size of this class, students coming and going other than at the beginning and end of class is very disruptive. Please be respectful of your classmates and take care of all your business before you come to class and stay until the class ends. Students who leave the classroom during an exam must turn in their exam before leaving and will not be allowed to continue with the exam when they return to the classroom.
2. All cell phones and pagers must be either turned off or on mute during class. Phones are to be put in your backpack or purse during class.
3. Computers can be used to take notes during class, but not for checking e-mail, surfing the net, or other such activities. If you use the computer for reasons other than note taking, you will be asked to turn it off and not bring the computer to future classes. Again, this can be very distracting for

students around you, so please do not abuse this privilege.

### **Accommodation Policy**

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your education opportunities.

### **Grading**

Final grades for the course will be determined as follows:

	<u>Points</u>			<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Examinations		220	44%	A	500 - 450
Midterm	100			B	449 - 400
Final	120			C	399 - 350
Written Assignments		125	25%	D	349 - 300
Worksheet	25			F	299 - 0
Research Paper	100				
Group Work		105	21%		
Governing by Campaign	35				
New Imperial Presidency	35				
Running Alone	35				
Participation/Attendance		<u>50</u>	10%		
Total Points		500			

### **Assistance and/or Consultation with the Instructor**

The best way to contact me is through e-mail, preferably at the [ougovt@yahoo.com](mailto:ougovt@yahoo.com) address. You should also feel free to telephone or come by during office hours. I will be available between 2:00 and 3:00 on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and by appointment on other days to discuss any questions that you may have during the semester. Students should not hesitate to arrange to meet with me at a mutually convenient time. You are responsible for any material, assignments, schedule changes, etc., which are announced in class or on the online class account, even if you are absent when such announcements are made. Students are encouraged to form study groups, exchange information, and seek assistance from both the instructor and fellow students. Cheating in any form, including plagiarism, will be penalized; you will be dismissed from class and be given an *F* and/or be referred to appropriate university officials for discipline. If you are having difficulty with the course work, get help early. I want to help make this a good learning experience and will assist you in any way I can to achieve that goal.

Tentative Class Schedule  
PSC 3163 - Fall 2007

Aug	21	Introduction, How to study the Presidency Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Appendix A
	23 & 28	Presidential Leadership and the Political Ecosystem Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapter 1 Waterman, Chapter 1
	30	Research on Presidential Research Assignment: Presidential Worksheet
Sept	4 & 6	Changes in the perceptions and expectations of the president Readings: Waterman, Chapters 2 & 3 Assignment: <b><i>Worksheet Due on Tuesday 9/4</i></b>
	11 & 13	Legal foundations for presidential power Readings: Waterman, Chapters 4 & 5 Assignment: <b><i>Research topic must be chosen and approved by 9/13</i></b>
	18 - 25	Presidential elections Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapters 2 & 3 Waterman, Chapter 6 Assignment: <b><i>Topic Statement and Bibliography due on 9/20</i></b>
Oct	9/27, 2, 4	Going Public - The President and the media Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapters 4 & 5 Waterman, Chapters 7 & 8
	9	Presentations and Discussion of <u>Governing by Campaigning</u> Assignment: <b><i>Group Assignments due</i></b>
	11	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
	16 & 18	Presidential relationships with Congress Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapters 10, 12 & 13 Waterman, Chapter 9
	23 & 25	Presidential relationships with the Judiciary and the Bureaucracy Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapter 11 Waterman, Chapters 10 & 11
	30	Presentations and Discussion of <u>The New Imperial Presidency</u> Assignment: <b><i>Group Assignments due</i></b>
Nov	1 - 13	Presidential relationships within the Executive Branch

Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapters 6, 7, & 8)  
Waterman, Chapter 12 & 13

- 15 & 20      Centralization of the White House  
                  Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapter 9  
                  Waterman: Chapters, 14 & 15  
                  Assignment: ***Research Paper Due by 9:00 am on Tues., Nov 20***
- 27              Presentations and Discussion of Running Alone: Presidential Leadership, JFK to Bush  
                  Assignment: ***Group Assignments due***
- 29              Foreign and Defense Policy Making  
                  Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapter 14
- Dec 4 & 6      Presidential Power and Leadership  
                  Readings: Edwards & Wayne, Chapter 15  
                  Waterman, Chapters 16 & 17
- Friday, Dec 14      Final Exam (8:00 - 10:00 am)**