

W4316x: The American Presidency

Course description: The politics and processes of the American presidency, including the creation and development of the presidential office, theories of presidential power, domestic policy leadership and decision processes, and national security decisionmaking.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing is required. Prior coursework in political science, particularly American national politics, is recommended.

Requirements: Attendance at all lectures. Students taking the course for a grade must complete two take-home midterm essays and one take-home final essay (each essay is approximately twelve printout pages) on assigned topics based on the course readings and lectures. All readings are required and can be obtained in the SIPA or Barnard College library reserve reading rooms. Many readings are also available at local bookstores, especially Labyrinth Books.

Contact Information: Office Hours: Wed. 4:00 – 6:00, at Room 408 Lehman Hall, Barnard Library building. E-mail: rpious@barnard.edu.

Topics and Readings

Part One: The Creation and Development of the Presidency

September 9: The Creation of the Presidency

Thomas Cronin, ed. Inventing The American Presidency, ch. 7
Pfiffner and Davidson ,eds. Understanding the Presidency, (fourth edition) (sec. 1, reading 1,2,3)

September 14: The Pre-Modern Presidency

Thomas Cronin, ed. Inventing The American Presidency, chs. 10-14

September 16: The Modern Presidency

Fred Greenstein, ed. Leadership in the Modern Presidency, (Intro, 1,2,4,10)
Pfiffner and Davidson Understanding the Presidency, (Taft, Roosevelt, Wilson)
Ellis and Nelson, eds. Debating the Presidency, ch. 1

September 21: A Postmodern Presidency?

Richard Rose The Postmodern President, 2d ed., chs. 1-4
Genovese and Han The Presidency and the Challenge of Democracy (chs. 1, 3)

Part Two: Sources of Presidential Power

September 23: Presidential Power vs. the Hidden Hand Presidency

Richard E. Neustadt Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents, chs. 1-7
Fred Greenstein, ed. Leadership in the Modern Presidency, ch. 3
Richard Pious Why Presidents Fail, ch. 2

September 28: Power in Political Time

Stephen Skowronek	<u>The Politics Presidents Make</u> , chs. 1,2,3,7,8
Michael Nelson	<u>The Presidency and the Political System</u> , eighth ed. (Skowronek)
Ellis and Nelson, eds.	<u>Debating the Presidency</u> , ch. 12

September 30: The Prerogative Presidency

Richard Pious	“Presidential Prerogative Power” <u>Oxford Handbook of the American Presidency</u> (Courseworks)
Thomas Cronin, ed.	<u>Inventing The American Presidency</u> , ch. 9
Pfiffner and Davidson	<u>Understanding the Presidency</u> , (Lincoln, Howell)
George Edwards and Desmond King	<u>The Polarized Presidency of George Bush</u> , ch. 3

**First Midterm Essay Covering Parts I and II:
Handed Out September 23, due October 5.**

Part Three: Presidential Domestic Political Leadership

October 5: Party Leadership

Michael Nelson, ed.	<u>The Presidency and the Political System</u> , ch. 13
Pfiffner and Davidson	<u>Understanding the Presidency</u> , Readings 14, 17 (Reich, Dahl)

October 7: National Agenda Leadership

Michael Nelson, ed.	<u>The Presidency and the Political System</u> , chs. 9, 10, 11
Pfiffner and Davidson	<u>Understanding the Presidency</u> , (Section 4, all articles)
Genovese and Han, eds.	<u>The Presidency and the Challenge of Democracy</u> , ch. 6
Ellis and Nelson, eds.	<u>Debating the Presidency</u> , ch. 5
George Edwards and Desmond King	<u>The Polarized Presidency of George Bush</u> , ch. 11

October 12: Case Study: Carter's Malaise

Richard Pious	Richard Pious
Kathleen Jamieson	<u>Eloquence in an Electronic Age</u> (passim on Carter)

October 14: Legislative Leadership

Pfiffner and Davidson	<u>Understanding the Presidency</u> , (Davidson, Spitzer)
Michael Nelson, ed.	<u>The Presidency and the Political System</u> , ch. 17, 19
Ellis and Nelson, eds.	<u>Debating the Presidency</u> , ch. 6
George Edwards and Desmond King	<u>The Polarized Presidency of George Bush</u> , chs. 9,12

October 19: Case Study: the Clintons' Healthcare Plan

Theda Skocpol	<u>Boomerang!</u> chs. 3,4,5
Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , ch. 8

October 21: The Administrative Presidency

Pfiffner and Davidson Understanding the Presidency, (Section 5, all articles)
Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System, chs. 14,15,20
Ellis and Nelson, eds. Debating the Presidency, ch. 10

October 26: The Budget Process

Fausold and Shank, eds. he Constitution and the American Presidency, ch. 8

October 28: Case Studies: 1990 and 1995 Budget Summits

Richard Pious Why Presidents fail, ch. 7

**Second Midterm Essay Covering Part III:
Handed Out October 21, due November 4.**

Part Four: Foreign Policymaking

November 4: Presidentializing Foreign Policy

Thomas Mann, ed. A Question of Balance (Mann, Jentleson)
Pfiffner and Davidson Understanding the Presidency, (Fisher, Lindsay, Burke)
Alexander George Presidential Decisionmaking in Foreign Policy, chs. 4-6, 8-11
Richard Pious Why Presidents Fail, ch. 1

November 9: Case Study: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Graham Allison "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," American
Political Science Review, vol. 53, no. 3, September 1969, pp.
689-718
Richard Pious "The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Limits of Crisis Management"
Political Science Quarterly, vol. 116, No. 1, Spring 2001
Available on Proquest. Go to CU or Barnard Library on the web.
Click on Resources and then Database. Click on "P" and scroll
down the listings. At advanced search enter Pious in top left-
hand box. Fourth article down.)

November 11: Inter-branch Policy Co-determination and Intelligence

Thomas Mann ed. A Question of Balance (Treverton, Blechman)
Louis Fisher Presidential War Power, ch. 8

November 16: Case Study: the Iran-Contra Affair

Pfiffner and Davidson Understanding the Presidency, (reading 42)
Richard Pious Why Presidents Fail, ch. 6

Part Five: Presidential War Powers

November 18: Hard Prerogative: Vietnam

Burke and Greenstein	<u>How Presidents Test Reality</u> , chs. 6-11,13
Daniel Ellsberg	<u>Papers on the War</u> ("The Quagmire Myth and Stalemate Machine")
Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , ch. 3

November 23: The Framework Approach: The War Powers Resolution

Thomas Mann, ed	<u>A Question of Balance</u> (Katzmann)
Louis Fisher	<u>Presidential War Power</u> , ch. 6

November 25: No Class (Have a great Holiday)

November 30: Warmaking after the WPR

Ellis and Nelson, eds.	<u>Debating the Presidency</u> , ch. 7
Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , ch. 4

December 2: Clinton, Bush I and II and War Powers

Genovese and Han, eds.	<u>The Presidency and the Challenge of Democracy</u> , chs. 5, 8
Michael Nelson, ed.	<u>The Presidency and the Political System</u> , ch. 21

December 7: Soft Prerogative: Iraq

Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , ch. 9
Genovese and Han, eds.	<u>The Presidency and the Challenge of Democracy</u> , ch. 7
George Edwards and Desmond King	<u>The Polarized Presidency of George Bush</u> , ch. 6

December 9: How Presidents Might Succeed

Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , chs. 10, 11
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**Final Essay Covering Parts IV and V:
Handed Out November 30, due December 14, 5:00 pm
at 408 Lehman Hall, Barnard Library Building**