

POLI 100A: The Presidency

Summer Session I
MTWTh 6:30 PM - 7:50 PM
Warren Lecture Hall 2207

Instructor: Anthony Anderson

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Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00pm to 6:00pm (and also via Zoom appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Sergio Guedes-Reis

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on the institution of the U.S. presidency with a focus on constitutional constraints, executive power, and the president's relationship with other key actors. This course will draw on political science research as well as historical and current events.

Course Objectives

Successful completion of this course equips students with a strong familiarity with the past and present of the presidency, and exposes them to some of the best work on this institution. Students should leave with a basic knowledge of the key features of the presidency from an institutional perspective.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to actively contribute to class discussions. There's a lot of "hot topics" surrounding the presidency in recent news, so I genuinely do want to accommodate your thoughts and questions to help guide discussions. While I highly encourage lecture attendance and participation, if you are unable or not comfortable speaking in class, please feel free to email me questions at any time. Additionally, if you need any help or accommodations any time during this course, please let me know as soon as possible. You are all humans and things happen so I want to be able to offer solutions to any potential stumbling block. That said, it's tricky for me to provide individual support if I'm unaware that you're in need of it. In short, course expectations boil down to this: be engaged and *p/lease* let me know if I can help you in any way.

Teaching Philosophy

Students study political science for a myriad of reasons: some seek to change the world, others seek to impact their communities, and a number just hope to figure out what their next step in life should be. As an educator, my principal goal is to help a diverse array of students reach an equally diverse set of goals. To reach this end, I seek to foster an inclusive learning environment that welcomes students of different backgrounds and political beliefs. I want students to develop the ability to critically evaluate both academic literature and contemporary political rhetoric as well as be able to persuasively communicate their own arguments. I also want to introduce students to a variety of methodological tools so they can better understand the power (and limitations) of statistical inference as well as use these tools to advance their research ideas. Finally, I genuinely enjoy teaching and want to help students succeed whether it be making them aware of academic opportunities, helping them market themselves as future professionals, or kindling an intellectual curiosity in them that lights the way to a lifetime of learning.

Required Text:

Michael Nelson. *The Presidency and the Political System* (12 edition) Note: While I'll be teaching from the 12th edition, older editions of the text should be acceptable.

Additional assigned readings will be available on Canvas

Assignments

Constitution Quiz	5%
Midterm	50%
Final	45%

Grade Policy

A	94.0 – 100	C+	77.0 – 79.9
A-	90.0 – 93.9	C	74.0 – 76.9
B+	87.0 – 89.9	C-	70.0 – 73.9
B	84.0 – 86.9	D+	65.0 – 69.9
B-	80.0 – 83.9	D	60.0 – 64.9

Please note that the grade policy is firm. Asking for or attempting to negotiate an unearned “grade bump” will result in guaranteeing no additional points.

Schedule

Meeting	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	July 3, 2023 (M)	Introduction & Final	Read Syllabus
2	July 4, 2023 (T)	NO CLASS	Enjoy some BBQ (optional)
3	July 5, 2023 (W)	Constitutional Foundations	Read U.S. Constitution Read Federalist #69
4	July 6, 2023 (Th)	Constitutional Foundations	Select President for Final Read Nelson Ch. 1
5	July 10, 2023 (M)	Presidential Power I	Read Nelson Ch. 3 & 4 Constitution Quiz 6:00pm
6	July 11, 2023 (T)	Presidential Power II	Read Nelson Ch. 5 & 6
7	July 12, 2023 (W)	Nominations	Read Nelson Ch. 7
8	July 13, 2023 (Th)	Campaigns & Elections	Read Nelson Ch. 8
9	July 17, 2023 (M)	Public & Media	Read Nelson Ch. 9 & 10
10	July 18, 2023 (T)	Parties & Interest Groups	Read Nelson Ch. 11 & 12
11	July 19, 2023 (W)	Congress	Read Nelson Ch. 15
12	July 20, 2023 (Th)	Congress	Read Nelson Ch. 18
13	July 24, 2023 (M)	Courts & Bureaucracy	Read Nelson Ch. 14
14	July 25, 2023 (T)	Military & Foreign Policy I	Read Nelson Ch. 17 & 19
15	July 26, 2023 (W)	Military & Foreign Policy II	
16	July 27, 2023 (Th)	NO CLASS	Take midterm on Canvas
17	July 31, 2023 (M)	Presidential Roles	
18	August 1, 2023 (T)	VPs & Cabinets	Read Nelson Ch. 13
19	August 2, 2023 (W)	Transition & Impeachment	Read Nelson Ch. 20
20	August 3, 2023 (Th)	TBD*	
	August 4, 2023 (F)	NO CLASS	Final due 9:59 p.m. on Canvas

*I have a bonus lecture on miscellaneous material at the ready that overviews several topics such as post-presidencies, first ladies, secret service, and presidential libraries. That said, the last lecture is meant to be relaxed to allow you to focus on finishing the session. If there's any topics you'd like me to cover in the final session, feel free to let me know and I'd be happy to integrate ideas. Alternatively, if you find it more useful, I'd

be happy to dedicate the class to talking about general advice about college, the workforce, and graduate school.

Academic Integrity

Simply put: do not cheat or plagiarize. I encourage working with fellow students to prepare for exams but collaborating once an exam is in session is considered cheating and strictly prohibited. Use of artificial intelligence to write essays (in part or whole) is considered cheating. Cheating will result in failing the class and recommendation for disciplinary action. As for plagiarism, make sure you cite any works you consult and borrow language or ideas from. Plagiarism will carry a very steep penalty at the instructor's discretion. For a more formal statement on academic integrity, see the below statement from the Academic Integrity Office:

"Academic Integrity is expected of everyone at UC San Diego. This means that you must be honest, fair, responsible, respectful, and trustworthy in all of your actions. Lying, cheating, or any other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated because they undermine learning and the University's ability to certify students' knowledge and abilities. Thus, any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result in sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in the class and suspension or dismissal from the University. So, think carefully before you act. Before you act, ask yourself the following questions: a: is my action honest, fair, respectful, responsible, and trustworthy, and b) is my action authorized by the instructor? If you are unsure, don't ask a friend, ask your instructor, instructional assistant, or the Academic Integrity Office. You can learn more about academic integrity at academicintegrity.ucsd.edu."

(Source: Bertram Gallant, T. (2017). Teaching for integrity. UC San Diego Academic Integrity Office.)

Academic Advising Questions

Students who have academic advising questions related to the Political Science major should contact the department's Undergraduate Advisor, Natalie Ikker, via the [Virtual Advising Center](#). Academic advising questions often include (but are not limited to): add/drop deadlines, course enrollment policies, planning major and minor requirements, quarter-by-quarter plans, department petitions and paperwork, and referrals to campus and student support services.

Student Resources for Support and Learning

Library Help

For questions about eReserves and research tools, [Ask a Librarian](#).

Learning Resources

[Writing Hub](#)

[Supplemental Instruction](#)

[Tutoring](#)
[CAPS Student Health and Well-Being](#)

Community Centers

Learn about the different ways UC San Diego explores, supports and celebrates the many cultures that make up our diverse community at [Student Life Diversity](#).

Accessibility

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a [current](#) Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department [in advance](#) so that accommodations may be arranged.

Contact the OSD for further information: <https://disabilities.ucsd.edu/>.
osd@ucsd.edu | 858. 534.4382

Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in this course, is encouraged to contact:

foodpantry@ucsd.edu | basicneeds@ucsd.edu | (858)246-2632

Technical Support

For help with accounts, network, and technical issues:
<https://acms.ucsd.edu/contact/index.html>

For help connecting to electronic library resources such as eReserves and e-journals:
<https://library.ucsd.edu/computing-and-technology/connect-from-off-campus/>

For help installing Zoom for video conferencing, virtual office hours, synchronous lectures:
<https://blink.ucsd.edu/technology/file-sharing/zoom/index.html>

I reserve the right to amend the syllabus as needed. Any and all amendments will be announced via Canvas.