

PLS 315: US Presidency

Spring Term: MW 9:00-10:15

Classroom: B103

Instructor: Itsuki Kurashina

Office: C 3-8

Office Hour: T 10:30-12:00, 13:00-14:30

Office Telephone: 018 (886) 5990

E-mail: ikurashina@aiu.ac.jp

Course Goals

This course has three primary goals:

1. The students will acquire information about the function of Presidents in the US government.
2. The students will get accustomed with literacy and internet research.
3. The students will be trained to integrate information from various sources and to produce a coherent argument in written forms.

Course Description

This course is intended to show the specific function of the US presidency in political and social fields of the United States. As a part of the federal government, US Presidents have certain power and function in relation to other governmental organizations. At the same time, a President can exercise wider influence than just one section of the government. This course is designed to clarify both strength and limitation of US Presidents.

Classroom Activities

This course consists of lectures by the instructor. Various aspects of US presidency are explained based on the assigned sections of the textbook, and students are expected to read these sections in advance. Students should take two written examinations regarding US presidential functions. Adding to this, students should write a short paper on an important president.

Prerequisites: None

Evaluation

First Paper 30%: Students should write a short paper on one president of their choice based on information from the Internet and other courses. Further instructions should be given later.

Take-Home Examination 40%: Students should submit a written answer to the assigned question one week prior to the deadline. The answer should be based on lectures and textbook. No research is required.

Final Examination 30%: An in-class, closed-book examination will be held at the end of the semester. Students should explain key concepts explained in the lectures.

Course Materials

Textbook: George C. Edwards III & Stephen J. Wayne, *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*, Seventh edition (Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2006)

Suggested Materials:

- *Graham Allison, Philip Zelikow, *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, 2nd edition (New York: Longman, 1999)
- *Richard E. Neustad, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents: The Politics of Leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan* (New York: Free Press, 1990 (1980))
- *Fred I. Greenstein, *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to George W. Bush*, 2nd edition (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004)

Course Schedule

APRIL

12th **Course Introduction**

14th **Process to Nominate Candidates**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 28-41

19th **Strategies to Win the Nomination**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 42-58

21st **System of the Presidential Election**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 59-73

26th **Presidential Campaign**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 73-99

28th **The President and the Public**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 100-153

MAY

7th **The President and the Media**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 154-192

****First Paper due on May 7th****

- 10th **Outline of the President's Office**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 193-203
- 12th **Presidential Staff**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 204-222
- 17th **Presidential Decision Making I**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 223-238
- 19th **Presidential Decision Making II**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 239-253
- 24th **Psychological Presidency**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 254-285
- 26th **Presidential Handling of the Executive Branch**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 286-303
- 31st **Conflicts between the Presidents and Bureaucrats**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 303-329
- JUNE
- 2nd **The President and the Congress**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 330-348
- 7th **Presidential Legislative Skills**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 348-377
- 9th **Judicial Selection**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 378-391
- 14th **President-Supreme Court Relations**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 391-408
- 16th **Domestic Policy Making I**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 409-421

21st **Domestic Policy Making II**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 421-441

23rd **Budgetary Policy Making**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 442-461

28th **Economic Policy Making**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 461-474

30th **Constitutional Functions in Foreign Policy**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 475-485

****Take-Home Examination due on June 30th****

JULY

5th **Expansion of Foreign Policy Roles**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 485-498

7th **Unilateral Presidency**
Required: *Presidential Leadership*, pp. 499-517

12th **Historical Development of the Presidential Function I**

14th **Historical Development of the Presidential Function II**

21st **Review Session**

*****Examination in the Final Week*****