

Poli 100A
The Presidency
Summer Session I, 2020

Instructor: Patrick Hulme (mhulme@ucsd.edu) OH: *Fri 10 – 12 and By Appointment*

TA: Cassidy Reller (creller@ucsd.edu) OH: *By Appointment*

Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays 11am-1:50pm

Location: Zoom

Course Overview:

This course focuses on the institution of the U.S. presidency, with a focus on the development of the office over time, executive power, and the president's relationship with other key actors. In the first class, we will explore the origins of the office itself and how it has evolved into the “modern presidency.” We will then move quickly into campaigning, the nomination process, and elections. Thereafter we will spend time focusing on presidential power and after briefly considering the role of the vice presidency, we will examine the executive’s relationship with the American people, Congress, and the courts. In the last week of the class, we will critically examine the thesis of the “Two Presidencies” and look at the power of the president in controlling the foreign policy of the United States.

Required Reading:

“Readings” will consist of a mixture of books, political science articles, judicial opinions, blog posts, short videos, etc.

There are two required books for the class, available from the bookstore, Amazon, or other vendors:

- (1) Sam Popkin’s *The Candidate: What it Takes to Win - and Hold - the White House*. ISBN 9780199325214.
- (2) Ellis and Nelson’s *Debating the Presidency: Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive* (4th Edition). ISBN 9781506344485.

All other readings will be posted on the course web page on Canvas and/ or will be accessible via the hyperlinks below.

Note: The course schedule displays readings that students are expected to complete before each lecture. List of readings may be updated as the quarter progresses.

Office Hours:

I will hold office hours between 10 and 12 on Fridays. Please sign up [here](#).

Grade Structure:

1. Reading quizzes (40%)

- Four short reading quizzes containing around six simple questions will be assigned weeks 2-5.
- Each one is graded Pass (10% of the overall grade) / No Pass (0%).

2. Critical essays (60%)

- Two take-home short essays are assigned, one at midterm and one at the end of the quarter, to evaluate students' ability to comprehend and critically discuss lectures and readings.
- Each one is worth 30% of the overall grade. The due dates and times are indicated in the course schedule below. Students will submit the essays via Canvas exclusively. Prompts will be released a few days prior, as indicated in the course schedule.
- Essay 1: topic released 7/10 and paper due on 7/20 by midnight.
- Essay 2: topic released 7/20 and paper due on 7/31 by midnight.

Statement on Academic Integrity:

All work should be original and written exclusively by the students. All assignments will be turned in through Turnitin.com AND in hard copy form the day they are due. All cases of suspected cheating will be referred for adjudication to the Office of Academic Integrity and the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs in the Office of Graduate Studies. Any violation for which a student is found responsible is considered grounds for failure in the course, not simply on the assignment. To review the policy, please go [here](#).

Learning Disabilities

Students with University-documented learning disabilities should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

Schedule

Monday, June 29th

Part A: Introduction to the Course and the Constitutional Origins of the Presidency

- [Article II of the Constitution](#)
- Federalist #[69](#), [70](#)

Part B: The Rise of the Modern Presidency

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [[Chapter 1](#)-- “Resolved, The Framers of the Constitution would approve of the modern presidency”]

Wednesday, July 1st

Part A: The Presidential Campaign

The Candidate: What it Takes to Win - and Hold - the White House – Popkin (2012) [Prologue; Chapters 1, 2]

1964 Johnson ad: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riDypPIKfOU>

1984 Reagan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EU-IBF8nwSY>

1988 Bush: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LyYD166ync>

FiveThirtyEight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PICluK9Wjzs>

Clinton 2008: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yr7odFUARg>

Attacks ads in general: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcjEe9guEIA>

Recommended film: *The War Room* (1993)

Part B: The Nomination Process

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [Chapter 3]

Monday, July 6th

Part A: Presidential Elections

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [Chapter 4]

Debates:

JFK vs. Nixon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMWQnoDA0o8>

CBS memorable moments of past debates:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQrxsh1HQCs>

Little things matter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWvjaH3ssc>

2016 third debate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m0raeXQtZs>

2016 genders reversed:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=SibtaF8SFC8&feature=emb_logo

Longer version (if interested):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=HJ9FdRaTGEo&feature=emb_logo

Elections:

Bush v. Gore: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3os_Vw1Eoo

Part B: Presidential Power (I)

The Steel Seizure Case (Youngstown) (only read the two small sections labeled in the file online)

Helpful video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqePUkGtm4o>

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [Chapter 8]

Wednesday, July 8th

Part A: Presidential Power (II)

“Unilateral Action and Presidential Power: A Theory” – Moe and Howell (1999)

White House Address:

Kennedy CMC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLxgeINIBEM&t=1s>

Nixon resignation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzXL7C0JQDM>

Bush 9/11: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vqP_KRhdm0

NYT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJ-xSNTVOiw>

Part B: Presidential Power (III)

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [Chapter 11]

Monday, July 13th

Part A: the Vice Presidency

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [Chapter 14]

Recommended film: *Vice* (2018)

Part B: The President and the Public

“Mobilizing the Public Against the President: Congress and the Political Costs of Unilateral Action” Kriner and Christenson (2017)

“Does Public Opinion Constrain Presidential Unilateralism?” Kriner and Christenson (2019)

Wednesday, July 15th

Part A: The President and Congress I

“The President’s Playbook: White House Strategies for Lobbying Congress” – Beckmann (2008)
Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [Chapter 9]

Part B: The President and Congress II

“Presidential Influence on Congressional Appropriations Decisions” – Kiewiet and McCubbins (1988)

“Presidential Particularism and Divide-the-Dollar Politics” – Kriner and Reeves (2015)

Monday, July 20th

Part A: The President and Congress III

“Caught in the Middle: The President, Congress, and the Political-Bureaucratic System” from The Executive Branch – Weingast (2005)

Part B: The President and Congress IV

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [Chapter 12]

Wednesday, July 22nd

Part A: The President and the Federal Courts I

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015)[Chapter 13]

Recommended viewing: “The Supremes” (Season 5, Episode 17) from The West Wing [Available on Netflix streaming]

Part B: The President and the Federal Courts II

“Locating U.S. Solicitors General in the Supreme Court's Policy Space” Hansford, Depaoli, and Canelo (2019)

“Presidential Rhetoric and U.S. Supreme Court Rulings: The Effect of Going Public on Citizen Evaluations of Institutions and Policy” Montgomery, Rogol, and Kingsland (2019)

Monday, July 27th

Part A: Foreign Policy (I) Constitutional Powers

Curtiss-Wright

Part B: Foreign Policy (II)

“The Two Presidencies,” Wildavsky (1996)

“Toward a Broader Understanding of Presidential Power: A Reevaluation of the Two Presidencies Thesis,” Canes-Wrone, Howell, and Lewis (2008), pages 1-16

“Presidents, Congress, and the Use of Force,” Howell and Pevehouse (2005)

Wednesday, July 29th

Part A: Foreign Policy (III) The Use of Military Force

Debating the Presidency – Ellis and Nelson (2015) [Chapter 10]

War Powers Resolution (Skim)

WPR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=barQHoh3krc>

Yoo: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaOHeeUMS_U

Bandow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzUldsTWou4>

Vice: https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/kzg9dx/why-the-united-states-doesnt-declare-war-anymore

Bloomberg: <https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2017/04/07/no-congress-doesn-t-need-to-first-declare-war/>

Politico: <https://www.politico.com/agenda/story/2017/04/trumps-dangerous-expansion-of-executive-war-powers-000387/>

Part B: Foreign Policy (IV)

“Congress, public opinion, and an informal constraint on the commander-in-chief” – Kriner (2018)

“Legality and Legitimacy in American Military Interventions”--Kreps (2019)

Recommended film: *Thirteen Days*