

PLSC 380—The Presidency

Fall 2013
419 Pray Harrold
M & W 12:30-1:45

Dr. Sidlow
Office: 601C Pray Harrold
Office Hours: 8:30-9:20a.m. MW
2-3p.m. MW and by appointment
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This course is concerned with the American presidency. We will examine the nature of presidential elections (paying particular attention to the current election cycle); sources of presidential power; relationships between the president and other actors in the political system and policy making in the executive branch.

Assigned Readings are drawn from the sources below:

George Edwards and Stephen Wayne. *Presidential Leadership 9th Edition*, 2014
Wadsworth. (E&W)

Erwin Hargrove, *The Effective Presidency*, Paradigm Books, 2008

Daily Newspaper. *The New York Times* provides a nice discount program for college and university students. Details can be found at newyorktimes.com/student, or by phone, 888-nyt-coll (698-2655).

You will also be expected to read a biography, to be selected from a list that I will provide during the first couple of weeks of the semester. This will provide the context for the assigned paper. Details on the paper will be provided in class.

Course Requirements

There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, and a 6-10 page paper based on a presidential biography. Both exams will be of the essay variety. Each exam is worth 50 points and the paper is worth 100 points.

Midterm Exam =	50
Final Exam =	50
Paper =	100
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Total	200

11/14	Midterm Exam
11/6 - 11/18	Presidential personality and non-governmental constituencies: the media, interest groups and political parties. E&W Ch. 6-8.
11/20 - 12/4**	Governmental constituencies: congress, the courts, and the bureaucracy. E&W Ch. 9 -11..
12/9 - 12/11	Presidential Policy Making E&W Ch.12-14.
Finish <i>Revival</i> 12/16 11:30 am	Final Exam

* Dates are approximate.

** No class on 11/27, Thanksgiving Recess.

Addendum (material the university administration wants on the syllabus)

Please be aware of these Fall Semester 2013 dates:

Part of Term 2: 9/4/13 - 10/22/13 (7 1/2 weeks)

- 9/6/13 Last date to add courses via the web (a)
- 9/30/13 Last date to add courses with departmental authorization
- 9/9/13 Last date for 100% tuition refund (individual or total withdraw from term)
- 10/8/13 (b) Last date for individual class withdrawal (with W grades) - no refund
- 9/17/13 Last date for 50% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades
- 9/30/13 (b) Last date for 25% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades
- 10/15/13 (b) Last date for total withdrawal from term (with W grades) - no refund
- 9/9/13 Last date to declare pass/fail grading option or select to audit a course
- 10/15/13 Last date to remove pass/fail grading option and receive letter grade

Codes

(a) Initial registration occurring on or after the Part of Term start date will incur a one-time \$135 late registration fee

(b) Date applicable only if student's classes are ALL within the same Part of Term and/or a later starting Part of Term

(**) A written request must be faxed to the Office of Records and Registration at 734.487.6808 before midnight

More University Mandated Information

Completion of this course fulfills a requirement in the Knowledge of the Disciplines/Social Sciences:

In Knowledge of the Disciplines courses, students will

- Acquire introductory knowledge about the discipline.
- Develop questions for inquiry that reflect an understanding of the discipline(s) in which they are asked.
- Learn how knowledge is developed and disseminated in particular disciplines.

In Social Science courses, students will

- Acquire an understanding of social science methods and of how they are used to engage in the systematic study of society and culture.
- Understand and compare formal and informal social and political structures, organizations, and institutions.
- Explore and understand power relationships and the impact of social change on different groups and on society in general.
- Develop an appreciation of different interpretations of contemporary issues, institutions, or structures.
- Use social science methods and content to interpret and analyze data and reports in the media and to make informed decisions regarding local, national, and international issues.
- Use basic social scientific research techniques to examine and present information in a clear and concise manner.
- Understand the relation between qualitative and quantitative research.

These objectives will be addressed through our examination of the historical and constitutional context of American government, the evolving nature of civil liberties and civil rights, the mobilization of political participation by interest groups and political parties, the behavior of individuals in the political arena, the measurement of public opinion, the role of the media, the power and procedures of national governmental institutions and agencies, and an assessment of the processes by which domestic and foreign policy is made.

Note this statement from the university administration:

Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. Students also may be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Services for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code details definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty, but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered an act of academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor.

And Finally, Still More University Material

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

115 Halle Library

(734)487-0694

<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>

FALL 2013 SYLLABUS TEXT

The University Writing Center (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students can make appointments or drop in between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. Students should bring a draft of what they're working on and their assignment sheet. The UWC opens for the Fall 2013 semester on Monday, September 9 and will close on Thursday, December 12.

The UWC also offers small group workshops on various topics related to writing (e.g., Organizing Your Writing; Incorporating Evidence; Revising Your Writing; Conquering Commas; Using APA or MLA). Workshops are offered at different times in the UWC. Visit the UWC page (<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>) to see our workshop calendar. To register for a workshop, click the link from the UWC page for the type of workshop you wish to attend.

The UWC also has several satellite sites across campus. These satellites provide writing support to students within the various colleges. For more information about our satellite locations and hours, visit the UWC web site: <http://www.emich.edu/uwc>.

The Academic Projects Center (116 Halle Library) also offers one-to-one writing consulting for students, in addition to consulting on research and technology-related issues. The APC is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Mondays through Thursdays for drop-in consultations**. Additional information about the APC can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/apc>. Students visiting the Academic Projects Center or any of the satellites of the University Writing Center should also bring with them a draft of what they're working on and their assignment sheet.