

PLS 3753 –The American Presidency

Fall 2018 – TR 2:00 -3:15pm – Coleman 2140

Dr. Ryan Burge

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Office Hours: 10:15am – 11:00am; 12:15pm-2:00pm; 3:15pm-4:00pm, TR

Course Description:

An analysis of the development of the 20th century presidency, focusing on presidential elections, popularity and power, and relations with Congress and the courts.

Textbook:

Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige. *The Politics of the Presidency*, Revised 9th Edition. ISBN: 9781506367798

Grading Scheme:

- Three Exams – 20% each
- Critical Analysis – 10%
- Semester Project – 20%
- Participation – 10%

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities- If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581- 6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Examination Policy:

All examinations must be taken at their scheduled time. Exams will not be given “early” for travel convenience - NO EXCEPTIONS. Make-up exams will be granted at the instructor's discretion for exceptional circumstances only (e.g., severe illness, family emergency or family death). You must contact me before the next class period following the exam and produce documentation (e.g., a

doctor's excuse, obituary, etc.) of this event. No make-up examination will be given without meeting the above conditions. Study guides will be posted on the class web page prior to each exam to help prepare students.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction

- Pika, Maltese and Rudalevige, Chapter 1
- Richard Neustadt's Presidential Power Essay

Week 2 – Constitution

- Understanding the Presidency, Readings 6,7,8, and 9
- “A New Imperial Presidency?” by Andrew Rudalevige

Week 3 – Public Opinion

- Pika et al, Chapter 3
- “An Overlooked Theory on Presidential Politics” by Rick Valelly

Week 4 – Media Relations

- Mayer, J.D., 2004. The contemporary presidency: The presidency and image management: Discipline in pursuit of illusion. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 34(3), pp.620-631.
- “Can the White House Revoke a Reporter's Credentials?” by Joshua Keating. *Foreign Policy*. June 7, 2010.
- “Who's Winning Trump's War with the Press?” by Jack Shafer. *Politico Magazine*. December 27, 2017.

Week 5 – Presidential Character

- Lyons, M., 1997. Presidential character revisited. *Political Psychology*, 18(4), pp.791-811.
- Take the Myers Briggs Test
- **First Exam on September 20th**

Week 6 – Nominating a President

- Pika et al, Chapter 2
- “Reforming the Presidential Nomination Process” by Catherine Tolbert and Peverill Squire. University of Iowa: Iowa Research Online. January 1, 2009.
- “Nomination Politics, Party Unity, and Presidential Elections” by James E. Campbell.
- “Invisible Primary Has Already Begun for Dems.” By Amie Parnes. *The Hill*. May 5, 2018.

Week 7 – How Did Trump Win?

- **Critical Analysis Due on October 2nd**
- “The Real Story of 2016.” By Nate Silver. *FiveThirtyEight*. January 19, 2017.
 - The Electoral Blind Spot

- It Wasn't Clinton's Election to Lose
- The Invisible Undecided Voter
- Ohio Was a Bellwether After All
- Why Early Voting Was Overhyped
- Donald Trump Had A Superior Electoral College Strategy
- Clinton's Ground Game Didn't Cost Her the Election
- Why You Shouldn't Always Trust the Inside Scoop
- There Really Was A Liberal Bubble
- The Comey Letter Probably Cost Clinton the Election
- The Media Has a Probability Problem

Week 8 – Presidents and Congress

- Pika et al, Chapter 5
- “Presidential Relations with Congress” by Roger H. Davidson
- “The Disappearing Political Center: Congress and the Incredible Shrinking Middle.” by Sarah Binder. The Brookings Institute. September 1st, 1996.

Week 9 – Presidents and the Executive

- Pika et al, Chapter 6
- Waterman, R.W., 2009. The administrative presidency, unilateral power, and the unitary executive theory. Presidential Studies Quarterly, 39(1), pp.5-9.

Week 10 – Presidents and the Judiciary

- Pika et al, Chapter 7
- “The Supremes” The West Wing: Season 5, Episode 17. Watch in Class
- **Second Exam on October 25th**

Week 11 – Presidents and Domestic Policy

- Pika et al, Chapter 8
- “Obama's Deal” PBS Frontline. April 10th, 2010. Watch in Class.

Week 12 – Presidents and Economic Policy

- Pika et al, Chapter 9
- “Trump's Smart Tariffs Don't Make Economic Sense” by Annie Lowrey. The Atlantic. March 1st, 2018.
- “How to Win a Trade War” by Dottle & Co. FiveThirtyEight. March 28, 2018.

Week 13 – Presidents and Foreign Policy

- Pika et al, Chapter 10
- “Presidential Power in National Security: A Guide to the President-Elect” By Louis Fischer. The White House Transition Project. 2007.

- “Trump’s Syria Strategy Makes Perfect Sense” by Aaron Stein. Foreign Policy. April 16, 2018.

Week 14 – Assessing President Trump’s First Year

- Pika et al, Chapter 11
- “President Trump’s First Year, in 14 Metrics” by Mike Nizza. Bloomberg. January 22, 2018
- “We Asked Experts to Grade Trump’s First Year as a President. Here’s What they Said.” By Justin Vaughn and Brandon Rottinghaus. Washington Post. January 19, 2018

Week 15 –

- Catch up/Final Exam/Project Help
- **Final Project Due on December 6th**