This graduate seminar is designed as an overview of major research topics pertaining to the United States Presidency. Because much of the scholarly literature on the presidency has been viewed as atheoretical, unsystematic, and/or largely descriptive, emphasis will be placed on recent advances in theory-building and methodological approaches. In addition to covering substantive areas of the presidency at each seminar meeting, we will review articles from the collection of essays in books edited by Shapiro et al. and Edwards et al. to discuss the application of “power,” behavioral, quantitative, and formal theoretical approaches to the presidency.

In addition to active participation in seminar discussions, students are to prepare a research paper of approximately 20-25 pages (journal length). The paper should represent an endeavor which, fully developed through additional research and analysis, could be worthy of a conference presentation or journal submission. Students are expected to theorize about a particular aspect of the presidency and set forth a substantive question or problem, a hypothesis or hypotheses, and methodological approach to the question of inquiry. Students are encouraged to collect relevant data and undertake data analysis, as appropriate to the focus of their research.

Students may approach the research question of interest to them from a longitudinal or case-study perspective. Potential topics include campaigns, public opinion, executive-legislative relations, press relations, White House organization/management, and decision-making. Students should use the various frameworks in the course readings as a springboard for developing new, creative, and innovative approaches.

The research paper will constitute 50% of the course grade (due date will be announced in class); a preliminary outline of the research paper is due on March 9 (5-7 pp) and constitutes 10% of the course grade. A presentation/analysis of one of the weeks’ “selected research articles” will comprise another 10% of the course grade. Attendance and participation will constitute the final 20% of the course grade.

Books are available at area book stores and are listed in Appendix 1. Journal articles will be available on line at JSTOR and/or through the Library West web sources.
January 10 – Introduction

January 19 – The Nature of Presidential Power: Neustadt Then and Now

Lyn Ragsdale, “Personal Power and Presidents,” in Shapiro et al.
Sidney Milkis, “The President and the Political Parties,” in Nelson.

January 26 – Presidential Elections

Stephen J. Wayne, *The Road to the White House 2004.*

Selected Research Article:

*Political Science Quarterly* 120, No. 2 (Summer 2005): 199-218.

February 2 – The Public Presidency I

Martha Joyn Kumar, “The President as Message and Messenger,” in Shapiro et al.
Diane Heith, “Presidential Polling and the Potential for Leadership,” in Shapiro et al.

Selected Research Articles:


February 9 – The Public Presidency II


*Selected Research Article:*


February 16 – The Institutional Presidency I

Bert Rockman, “Staffing and Organizing the Presidency,” in Shapiro et al.
Karen Hult, “Advising the President,” in Edwards et al.

*Selected Research Article:*


February 23 – The Institutional Presidency II


*Selected Research Article:*

March 2 – Unilateral Actions


*Selected Research Article:*


March 9 - From the Institutional Presidency to Relations with Congress: Archival/Quantitative Analysis and the “Two Presidencies”


*Selected Research Article:*


March 16 - NO MEETING/SPRING BREAK

March 23 – Legislative Leadership: Quantitative Approaches


*Selected Research Article:*

March 30 - Divided Government and the Legislative Presidency

Terry Moe, “Presidents, Institutions, and Theory,” in Edwards et al.

*Selected Research Article:*


*Recommended: David Mayhew, Divided We Govern.*

April 6 – The Presidential Veto

Charles Cameron, *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power.*

*Selected Research Article:*


April 13 - The Psychological Presidency

James David Barber, *Presidential Character.*
Erwin Hargrove, “Presidential Personality and Leadership Style,” in Edwards et al.

*Selected Research Article:*


April 20 – Comparative Perspectives/Presentation of Individual Projects
Appendix
Book List


