The Presidency
POS 6933 (graduate level)
Department of Political Science
University of Florida
Tuesdays, Periods 8-10
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (15:00-18:00)

Richard S. Conley, Ph.D.
Department of Political Science
University of Florida
309 Anderson Hall
Office tel. 352-273-2385
Email: rconley@ufl.edu
Web: http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/rconley
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 13:30-15:00 (1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) and by appointment

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 advances in theory-building and methodological approaches. The seminar will cover substantive areas of the presidency at each meeting, including 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 a 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); an annotated bibliography (4-6 pages, minimum of 12 citations/references) on the propose topic of interest is due on xxx and constitutes 10% of the grade; a preliminary outline of the research paper is due on (5-7 pp) and constitutes 15% of the course grade. Weekly presentations of seminar readings, attendance, and participation constitute the final 25% of the course grade.

Books are available at area book stores and are listed in Appendix 1.
January 6 – Introduction to the Course

January 13 – What Is Presidential Power? What Should It Be?

- Raymond Tatalovich and Steven E. Schier, *The Presidency and Political Science: Paradigms of Presidential Power from the Founding to the Present.*
- Jeffrey Tulis, “The Two Constitutional Presidencies,” in Nelson.

January 20 -- The Nature of Presidential Power: Neustadt, Skowronek et les autres…

- Lyn Ragsdale, “Personal Power and Presidents,” in Shapiro et al.

Recommended:


January 27 – The Methodology and Future Direction of Presidency Research


February 3 – Presidential Elections

- Stephen J. Wayne, *The Road to the White House 2012.*

February 10 – The Public Presidency I

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

February 17 – The Public Presidency II

February 24 – The Institutional Presidency

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

3 March – Spring Break (NO CLASS)

10 March -- Power & Policymaking: Executive Orders


March 17 – Power and Policymaking: Unilateral Actions & Signing Statements Controversies


March 24 - Archival Research & Approaches to Primary Sources

- Andrew Rudalevige, *Managing the President's Program*.
March 31 – Legislative Leadership: Quantitative Approaches & the “Two Presidencies”

- Jon Bond and Richard Fleisher, *The President in the Legislative Arena*.

7 April - Divided Government, The Veto Power, and the Legislative Presidency

- Charles Cameron, *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*.
- Terry Moe, “Presidents, Institutions, and Theory,” in Edwards et al.
April 14 - The Psychological Presidency & Research Paper Presentations

- James David Barber, *Presidential Character*.

Appendix

Book List


