Spring 2018: The Presidency

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Required Text
The Politics of the Presidency by Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige
ISBN: 978-1506367798

Jan 22: First Day of class
Jan 29: Ch. 1: “The Changing Presidency”
Feb. 5: Ch. 2: “Election Politics:
Feb. 12: Ch. 3: “Public Politics”
Feb. 19: Ch. 4: “Presidential Character and Performance”
Feb. 26: Ch. 5: “Legislative Politics”
Mar. 5: Ch. 6: “Executive Politics”
Mar. 12: Spring Break
Mar. 19: Midterm
Mar. 26: Ch. 7: “Judicial Politics”
Apr. 2: Ch. 8: “The Politics of Domestic Policy”
Apr. 9: Ch. 9: “The Politics of Economic Policy”
Apr. 16: Ch. 10: “The Politics of National Security Policy”
Apr. 23: Ch. 11: “The Trump Transition and the First 100 Days”
Apr. 30: Final Paper Due

Grades:
Quizzes: 35% (11 quizzes, lowest 2 dropped)
Midterm: 30%
Final Paper: 35%

Grading Scale:
A: 95-100
A-: 90-94
B+: 87-89
B: 84-86
B-: 80-83
Quizzes will be tests of whether you have kept up to date with the course readings. They will be designed to be easy if you have read and taken good notes, but difficult if you have not read. They will be given in class only and there will be no make-up quizzes. Your two lowest grades will be dropped.

The Midterm Exam will be part multiple choice and part short answer. It will cover material from the readings and from class lectures and discussions. Study groups are encouraged and I will provide more information as the exam nears about how you can best prepare for it.

The Final Paper will be 4-5 page critical book review. The assignment is to engage with the author’s argument with a critical, yet charitable eye for what the reader should take away. We will discuss the particulars of this in more depth during the semester. The review must be on a presidential biography published by a university press. Students should email their choice to me by March 26th, before class begins.

The University wants the following statements included on all syllabi. You should review them before at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Dishonesty
Regarding plagiarism, the NIU Undergraduate Catalog states: “Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging them. Students guilty of, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.” The above statement encompasses a paper written in whole or in part by another; a paper copied word-for-word or with only minor changes from another source; a paper copied in part from one or more sources without proper identification and acknowledgment of the sources; a paper that is merely a paraphrase of one or more sources, using ideas and/or logic without credit even though the actual words may be changed; and a paper that quotes, summarizes or paraphrases, or cuts and pastes words, phrases, or images from an internet source without identification and the address of the web site.

Students with Disabilities
Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NIU is committed to making reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Those students with disabilities that may have an impact on their course work must register with the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR) on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building (753-1303). CAAR will assist students in making appropriate instructional and/or examination accommodations with course instructors. It is important that CAAR and instructors be informed of any disability-related needs during the first two weeks of the semester.
Department of Political Science Web Site
Undergraduates are strongly encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to polisci.niu.edu.

Undergraduate Writing Awards
The Department of Political Science will recognize, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Winners are expected to attend the Department's spring graduation ceremony, where they will receive a certificate and $100.00. Papers, which can be submitted by students or faculty, must be supplied in triplicate to a department secretary by the end of March. All copies should have two cover pages – one with the student's name and one without the student's name. Only papers written in the previous calendar year can be considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year's competition even if the student has graduated.