

## THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

Political Science 3700 (CRN: 44082)

Fall 2009

Name: Professor Sunil Ahuja  
Office: 527 DeBartolo Hall (Department of History)  
Office Hours: 9:00-10:00 and 11:00-12:00 MWF or by appointment  
Office Phones: 941-3452 (History) or 941-3436 (Political Science)  
E-mail: sahuja@ysu.edu  
Class Days and Times: MWF, 10:00-10:50

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to acquaint the students with the American presidency. Attention will be given to such topics as the evolution of the office, the nomination and election of a president, the organization of the office, the roles and responsibilities of the person in office, and the relationship of the presidency with other institutions of government and the society. At the end of the course, students are expected to have a solid understanding of the American presidency. **Note:** This course satisfies the writing-intensive component of the General Education Requirements. It is designated as a Writing Intensive course. Hence, heavy emphasis will be placed on writing in various ways, via formal papers and via essay exams.

### BOOKS REQUIRED:

- James P. Pfiffner, *The Modern Presidency*, Fifth Ed., (Thomson Wadsworth, 2008).
- Thomas E. Cronin, *On the Presidency: Teacher, Soldier, Shaman, Pol* (Paradigm, 2009).

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Exams:** Students are required to take two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. Both exams will be entirely of essay format, and will be graded on both content and grammar. Both will be take-home exams. The questions will be handed out in class a week before the due date, and answers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date, and not via email at a later time. Exams not submitted in hard copy at the start of the class on the due date will be penalized one letter grade per day, including weekends. Each exam will contain four questions, and you will have to answer any three of those. Each question will be worth 25 points. Each exam will be worth 75 points. The final exam will not be cumulative.

**Papers:** Students are required to write two papers in this course, a draft and a final version. The papers must provide an analysis of *On the Presidency* book. The draft must be 3-4 pages and the final version must be 7-8 pages, typewritten, double-spaced pages, using standard fonts. The final version must be a substantially revised version of the draft. Papers will be graded based upon both content (substance) and format (writing style). Papers must be turned in at the beginning of the class on the due date, and not via email at a later time. Papers not submitted in hard copy at the start of the class on the due date will be considered late, and each late paper will be penalized one letter grade per day, including weekends. Each version of the paper will be worth 50 points. Further details regarding this assignment will be given in class.

**Presentations and Class Discussions:** Students are required to present the final versions of the papers in class, at a date scheduled during the semester. This should be a brief presentation and will be worth 25 points. Students are also expected to discuss the assigned materials in class. Class participation will be worth 25 points.

### GRADING:

**Points:** Final grades will be based upon 300 total points, distributed as follows: two exams (75 points each)=150 points, two papers (50 points each)=100 points, and presentations and participation (25 points each)=50 points.

**Scoring:** Everything will be scored as A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; and F=59% or below.

### GENERAL POLICIES:

**Attendance and Participation:** Students are expected to be in class every time and participate in class discussions. Much of the exam material will come from class lectures and discussions. In addition, helpful hints regarding the papers will be given in class. Hence, your presence in class is essential in order for you to perform well in the course. I will periodically

take attendance in class, and I regard unfavorably those who routinely miss classes or come to classes late and leave early.

**Classroom Behavior:** There should be no eating or informal conversing during the class period. Turn cell phones off. Any snacks should be finished, and garbage disposed, prior to class. You may bring something to drink as long as you do so quietly and are considerate of others. These rules are for everyone's benefit, and most importantly are designed to make sure that all of us give our undivided attention to the classroom session.

**Makeups:** Students are expected to do the work at the scheduled time. Prior permission from me or certification by a doctor are the only conditions under which makeups will be allowed. Those failing to do this will be given a zero for the exam or assignment in question.

**Extra Credit:** There will be no extra credit work in this course.

**Incompletes:** The University policy will be followed. According to the policy, "[a]n incomplete grade of I may be given to a student who has been doing satisfactory work in a course but, for reasons beyond the control of the student and deemed justifiable by the instructor, had not completed all requirements for a course when grades were submitted" (*Undergraduate Bulletin* 2008-2009, p. 38).

**Academic Dishonesty:** A definition of and policy on cheating and plagiarism is described under "Academic Misconduct" in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*. Anyone caught cheating or handing in plagiarized work will be given a zero for the assignment in question.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Anyone requiring special adaptations or accommodations should inform the instructor as soon as possible. In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the Office of Disability Services (phone: 330-941-1372) in the Center for Student Progress at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services.

### Class Schedule

The following schedule is an outline of the readings and key dates. You will be notified as soon as possible should any changes to this schedule be necessary. The specific reading assignments for each day will be made on a daily basis.

Dates	Readings
Aug. 24	Introduction
Aug. 26-Aug. 31	Constitution and Constitutional Amendments (Pfiffner, Appendices B and C)
Sep. 2-30	Pfiffner's <i>The Modern Presidency</i> (Chapters 1-4)
<b>Oct. 2</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
Oct. 5-16	Cronin's <i>On the Presidency</i>
Oct. 19-Nov. 20	Pfiffner's <i>The Modern Presidency</i> (Chapters 5-8)
<b>Oct. 30</b>	<b>First Draft of Paper Due</b>
<b>Nov. 23-Dec. 4</b>	<b>Paper Presentations</b>
<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>Final Version of Paper Due</b>
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Final Exam (8:00-10:00)</b>

If you have any questions regarding this course, please feel free to see me. You may see me either during my office hours listed above or by setting up an appointment.

