

PSC 216.LH3 - The American Presidency

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The George Washington University
Masters in Legislative Affairs Program
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Thursdays 6PM - 8PM
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This course will examine the constitutional, institutional, and personal aspects of the modern presidency. Emphasis will be placed on presidential decision making and leadership.

Requirements:

Attend each class. Complete all readings before class.

Participate actively in class discussions. Hand in (and keep a copy), at the beginning of each class, two recommended questions for discussion in class based on the readings for the class. Be prepared to present assigned readings to the class. For each class, be prepared to present a current news or opinion item related to the course from a newspaper or news magazine.

Original research on an approved subject that is directly related to this course. An oral presentation to the class (15 minutes) based on the research. An annotated bibliography for the research to be distributed at oral presentation.

Two analytical papers on assigned topics.

Research and oral presentation:

Please hand in at class:

Proposed research topic (one paragraph): September 21

Research outline (two pages): October 12

Oral presentations of research will be in class on November 16, 30; and December 7.

Weighting of requirements for grade: first paper - 20 percent; class participation, including questions for each class, presentation of articles and assigned readings, and class discussion - 20 percent; research, annotated bibliography, and oral presentation - 30 percent; and second paper - 30 percent.

University Statement on Academic Integrity

In this class, we are guided by the principle that academic integrity is essential in the pursuit of knowledge. The University, this graduate program, your professor, and your classmates will not tolerate cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting your own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and with appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. Please refer to the GW Student Guide to Rights and Responsibilities for further elaboration on academic dishonesty and student conduct.

In addition, each of the papers should be completed under the same conditions as if it was being written in class, completely independently.

Reading List

All Required (Please note: There will be additional handouts throughout the course; all are required.)

Books (All available at the Bookstore)

Abshire, David, Editor, Triumphs and Tragedies of the Modern Presidency [Praeger Publishers, paperback 2001]

Cooper, Phillip J., By Order of the President The Use and Abuse of Executive Direct Action [University Press of Kansas, paperback 2002]

Gergen, David, Eyewitness to Power The Essence of Leadership Nixon to Clinton [Simon & Schuster, paperback 2000]

Patterson, Jr., Bradley H., The White House Staff, Inside the West Wing and Beyond [Brookings Institution Press, paperback 2001]

Pfiffner, James P., The Managerial Presidency, [Texas A&M University Press, Second edition, paperback, 1999]

Shapiro, Robert Y., Kumar, Martha Joynt, Jacobs, Lawrence R., Editors, Presidential Power, Forging the Presidency for the Twenty-first Century [Columbia University Press, paperback 2000]

The Constitution

The following readings will be provided as handouts

Allen, Mike and Weisman Jonathan, "Steel Tariffs Appear to Have Backfired on Bush"
[The Washington Post, September 19, 2003]

Bumiller, Elisabeth, "An Invisible Aide Leaves Fingerprints" [The New York Times,
January 6, 2003]

Bumiller, Elisabeth, "Keepers of Bush Image Lift Stagecraft to New Heights" [The New
York Times, May 16, 2003]

Bumiller, Elisabeth, "For President, Final Say on a Bill Sometimes Comes After the
Signing" [The New York Times, January 16, 2006]

Dellinger, Walter, "A Slip of the Pen" [The New York Times, Op-Ed, July 31, 2006]

Fletcher, Michael A., "Bush Is Keeping Cabinet Secretaries Close to Home" [The
Washington Post, March 31, 2005]

Lindsey, Lawrence B., "The Value of Loyalty" [The Wall Street Journal, January 14,
2004]

Max, D.T., "The Making of the Speech" [The New York Times Magazine, October 7,
2001]

Pious, Richard M., "The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Limits of Crisis Management"
[Political Science Quarterly, Volume 116, Number 1 2001]

Porter, Roger B., "Economic Advice to the President: From Eisenhower to Reagan"
[Political Science Quarterly, Fall 1983]

Stolberg, Sheryl, "Bush's Record: One Veto, Many No's" [The New York Times,
July 23, 2006]

Memorandum on Legislative Coordination and Clearance, February 2001

Memorandum on Child Safety Lock Devices for Handguns

Excerpt on The White House Staff from the Brownlow Commission, 1937

Executive Order 11030, Executive Orders, 1962, as amended

Executive Order 12335, National Commission on Social Security Reform, 1981

President Bush's Address to a Joint Session of Congress, September 20, 2001

Memorandum to the Counsel to the President, The Legal Significance of Presidential
Signing Statements, November 1993

Memorandum to the Counsel to the President, Presidential Authority to Decline to
Execute Unconstitutional Statutes, November 1994

Signing Statement on the Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill,
December 20, 2005

Title X "Detainee Treatment Act of 2005" of Defense Emergency Supplemental
Appropriations Bill

Signing Statement on the "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act" May 13, 2002

Signing Statement on the "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act" March 27, 2002

Signing Statement on the "Balanced Budget Act of 1997" August 5, 1997

Veto Message on the "Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act" April 25, 2000

Veto Message on H.R. 2631, Disapproving Cancellations Under the Line Item Veto Act,
November 13, 1997

Veto Message on H.R. 810, "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005"
July 19, 2006

The following readings should be retrieved from the Internet (Noted with * in reading list)

(Executive Orders - available at:
www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition.html)

Executive Order 12835, Establishing the National Economic Council, 1993
Executive Order 13210, President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, 2001
Executive Order 13369, President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform, 2005
Executive Order 13283, Establishing the Office of Global Communications, 2003

Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. sections 801 to 808
(available in U.S. Code- uscode.house.gov/usc.htm)

National Security Presidential Directive 1
(available at: www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/nspd-1.htm)

Syllabus

September 7. Introduction and Overview

September 14. The President and the Congress

The Constitution, Articles I and II

Shapiro, Introduction

Shapiro, Chapter 2. Neustadt's Power Approach to the Presidency

Shapiro, Chapter 4. Personal Power and Presidents

Shapiro, Chapter 23. Presidential Power, Institutions, and Democracy

Shapiro, Chapter 5. Bargaining and Presidential Power

September 21. The President and the Congress

Shapiro, Chapter 14. Congressional Delegation of Authority to the President

*Congressional Review Act

Memorandum on Legislative Coordination and Clearance

Pfiffner, Chapter 8. OMB and Neutral Competence (Hugh Heclo)

Pfiffner, Chapter 9. The Politicized Presidency (Terry M. Moe)

Pfiffner, Chapter 10. Mandates or Mandarins? Control and Discretion in the Modern
Administrative State (Aberbach and Rockman)

Select 3 of the following Abshire readings:

Abshire, p. 62. Civil Rights Act of 1964

Abshire, p. 64. Tax Reform Act of 1986

Abshire, p. 66. President Clinton's First Budget

Abshire, p. 69. President Clinton's Health Care Reform Proposals of 1994
Abshire, p. 71. Balanced Budget Act of 1997
Abshire, p. 80. Federal Highway Act of 1956

September 28. The White House Staff and the Vice President

Shapiro, Chapter 8. Staffing and Organizing the Presidency
Shapiro, Chapter 9. The Institutionalization of Power
Pfiffner, Chapter 1. Can the President Manage the Government? (Pfiffner)
Pfiffner, Chapter 2. The Changing Presidential Office (Hugh Heclo)
Pfiffner, Chapter 3. The Evolution of the White House Staff (Samuel Kernell)
Pfiffner, Chapter 4. Memorandum on Staffing the President-Elect (Richard E. Neustadt)
Excerpt on The White House Staff from the Brownlow Commission

October 5. The White House Staff and the Vice President

Patterson, Part One: Outside and Inside the White House
Patterson, Chapter 1. Outside the Gates
Patterson, Chapter 2. Inside the Gates
Patterson, pages 44 to 46. Organization Chart
Patterson, Chapter 6. The Counsel to the President
Patterson, Chapter 7. Legislative Affairs
Patterson, pages 344 to 356. The Chief of Staff
Patterson, Chapter 19. The Vice President
Patterson, Chapter 15. Office of Presidential Personnel
Patterson, pages 339 to 341. The Staff Secretary
Fletcher, "Bush Is Keeping Cabinet Secretaries Close to Home"

October 12. Executive Orders

Cooper, Preface.
Cooper, Chapter 1. The Tools of Presidential Direct Administration
Cooper, Chapter 2. Executive Orders: Directing the Executive Branch
Cooper, Chapter 3. Strategies, Tactics, and Political Realities of Executive Orders
Executive Order 11030, as amended, on Executive Orders

October 19. Domestic and Economic Policy Making

Porter, Economic Advice to the President: From Eisenhower to Reagan
Patterson, Chapter 4. The Domestic Policy Staff
Bumiller, An Invisible Aide Leaves Fingerprints
Cooper, pages 52 to 55.
Abshire, p. 29. The Greenspan Commission and Social Security Reform, 1983
Executive Order 12335, National Commission on Social Security Reform, 1981
*Executive Order 13210, President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, 2001

*Executive Order 13369, President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform, 2005

October 26. Domestic and Economic Policy Making

Patterson, Chapter 5. The National Economic Council

Abshire, p. 140. The National Economic Council and Economic Policy Board

*Executive Order 12835, Establishing the National Economic Council

Lindsey, The Value of Loyalty

Allen and Weisman, Steel Tariffs

Abshire, p. 115. The Office of the Special Trade Representative

Abshire, p. 270. Mobilizing for Y2K

Abshire, p. 273. Technology Policy in the First Clinton Administration

November 2. Presidential Directives

Cooper, Chapter 4. Presidential Memoranda

Memorandum on Child Safety Lock Devices for Handguns, March 5, 1997

Cooper, Chapter 5. Presidential Proclamations

Cooper, Chapter 8. Presidential Direct Action and Washington Rules

November 9. National Security Assistance

Patterson, Chapter 3. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Shapiro, Chapter 7. Foreign Policy Decision Making

Cooper, Chapter 6. National Security Directives

*National Security Presidential Directive 1

Abshire, p. 152. President Eisenhower Establishes His National Security Process

Abshire, p. 182. Bay of Pigs Invasion

Abshire, p. 184. Cuban Missile Crisis

Pious, The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Limits of Crisis Management

Abshire, p. 187. Vietnam War

Select 3 of the following Abshire readings:

Abshire, p. 170. Enlargement of NATO, 1994 - 1999

Abshire, p. 173. Clinton and NATO Enlargement

Abshire, p. 178. Miscalculations Leading to Conflict

Abshire, p. 195. Nixon's Opening to China

Abshire, p. 197. Lessons From Carter's Camp David Summit

Abshire, p. 208. Reagan and Gorbachev

November 16. Conveying the President's Message

Patterson, Chapter 8. The Press Secretary

Patterson, Chapter 9. The Office of Communications

Patterson, Chapter 10. The Speechwriting Office

President Bush's Address of September 20, 2001
Max, The Making of the Speech
Bumiller, Keepers of Bush Image . . .
Abshire, p. 154. How America Communicates With Others
*Executive Order 13283, Establishing the Office of Global Communications

November 23. Thanksgiving - No class

November 30. Speeches, Signing Statements, and Veto Messages

Memorandum to the Counsel to the President, The Legal Significance of Presidential Signing Statements
Memorandum to the Counsel to the President, Presidential Authority to Decline to Execute Unconstitutional Statutes
Cooper, Chapter 7. Presidential Signing Statements
Signing Statement on the Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill
Title X "Detainee Treatment Act of 2005" of Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill
Signing Statement on the Supplemental Appropriations Bill
Signing Statement on the "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act"
Signing Statement on the "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act"
Signing Statement on the "Balanced Budget Act of 1997"
Bumiller, For President, Final Say on a Bill Sometimes Comes After the Signing
Stolberg, Bush's Record: One Veto, Many No's
Dellinger, A Slip of the Pen
Veto Message on the "Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act"
Veto Message on H.R. 2631
Veto Message on H.R. 810

December 7. Perspectives on Recent Presidents and the Presidency

Shapiro, Chapter 16. Presidential Power and the Potential for Leadership

Gergen, Eyewitness to Power The Essence of Leadership

Preface

Select 2 of the following:

President Nixon

President Ford

President Reagan

President Clinton

Gergen, Conclusion: Seven Lessons of Leadership

Shapiro, Chapter 23. Presidential Power, Institutions, and Democracy

