
Political Science 310 – American Presidency (Online)

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Spring 2022

Instructor	Dr. Saemyi Park
Instructor's Office	Science Building D335
Office Hours	Online: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM on Monday via Zoom In-Person: 9:30 AM – 10:30 Am on Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM on Thursday or by appointment
Email	spark@uwsp.edu
Important Note	Please keep in mind that this syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, is subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement in Canvas and through email.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will analyze the development and modern practice of presidential leadership in the United States. We will examine different perspectives of understanding presidential leadership, the process of presidential selection, and the structure of the presidency as an institution. We will also explore the relationship of the presidency with other major governmental institutions, the press, the public, and the parties. Its primary concern is with the political resources and constraints inflicting the president's ability to provide leadership in the U.S. political system.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & ASSESSMENT

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

- LO1: Articulate the Constitutional foundations of the American presidency
- LO2: Examine different perspectives of understanding presidential powers (war power; legislative power; executive power; rhetorical power)
- LO3: Identify the process of presidential selection (the primary election & the general election)
- LO4: Analyze the relationship between the presidency and other government institutions (Congress and the Courts)
- LO5: Explain the structure of the executive branch and the president's core circles
- LO6: Evaluate the roles of the press and the public as sources and constraints to the presidency

Students will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Practice Quiz (all LOs)
- Module Activities (all LOs)
- Film Presentation & Film Analysis Paper (LO1, LO2 & LO3)
- The Midterm Project (LO1, LO2 & LO3)
- The Final Project (LO4, LO5 & LO6)

REQUIRED READINGS

There is NO required textbook to purchase or rent. Scholarly articles and other readings are assigned to each subject, which is accessible through the course in Canvas. Please check out each module.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Points	Note
12 Module Activities	120	10 pts per each
12 Module Peer Reviews	60	5 pts per each set of reviews
12 Module Quizzes	120	10 pts per each
The Midterm Project	40	
The Final Project	40	
Film Analysis Paper	20	
Total	400	

Note: Incomplete assignments that are more than 30% of the total course work will result in automatic F for the course. Students MUST complete the projects (midterm & final) and the film analysis paper in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course. You do NOT have the option to “take a zero” on these assignments. Missing one of these assignments will result in either an F for the course or in a final grade of incomplete until the work is submitted (however, this option is rarely permitted to students).

GRADING SCALE

A	376-400	B+	348-359	C+	308-319	D+	268-279
A-	360-375	B	332-347	C	292-307	D	252-267
		B-	320-331	C-	280-291	F	below 251

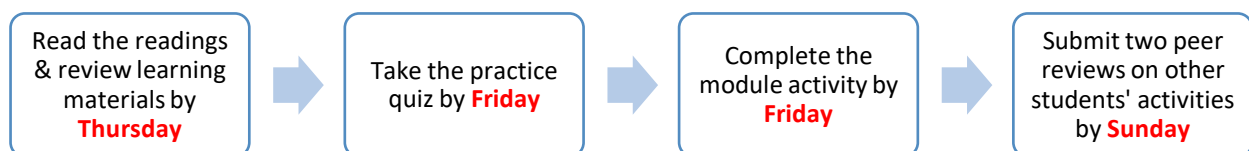
MODULE DESCRIPTION

All course activities occur on the course site at Canvas. There are 15 modules in total (1 introduction module & 11 topic modules & 2 exam modules & 1 special module on the film). Each module is supposed to be completed in a week, and it is structured in a similar way so that you can expect what you are invited to do. You need to complete all module activities to move to the next module. It means that you need to read and/or complete all pages under each module. I will publish several modules at once, so you can complete module activities in advance if you want.

The module's topic, dates, and the assigned readings are presented in the following table:

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	1/24-1/30	Module 1: Introduction
Week 2	1/31-2/6	Module 2: The Constitutional Foundation
Week 3	2/7-2/13	Module 3: The Presidential Power
Week 4	2/14-2/20	Module 4: War Powers
Week 5	2/21-2/27	Module 5: Imperial Presidency & Two Presidency Theories
Week 6	2/28-3/6	Module 6: Legislative Powers I – Veto & Executive Order
Week 7	3/7-3/13	Module 7: Legislative Powers II – Executive Agreement & Signing Statement
Week 8	3/14-3/20	Module 8: The Midterm Project Week
Week 9	3/28-4/3	Module 9: Film Presentation Week
Week 10	4/4-4/10	Module 10: Executive Powers
Week 11	4/11-4/17	Module 11: The Process of Presidential Selection I
Week 12	4/18-4/24	Module 12: The Process of Presidential Selection II
Week 13	4/25-5/1	Module 13: The Structure of Presidency
Week 14	5/2-5/8	Module 14: Interbranch Relations
Week 15	5/9-5/15	Module 15: The Final Project Week

As shown in the figure below, you are invited to do the following activities for each module:



- 1. Read the readings and Review learning materials by Thursday.**
 - It is in your best interest to read the assigned articles first BEFORE reviewing the learning materials.
 - After the readings, please review learning materials along with other supplement information.

- 2. Take the Practice Quiz by Friday.**
 - You are asked to take the practice quiz after reviewing all learning materials.
 - The format of this quiz is a combination of multiple-choice questions, true-or-false questions, multiple answer questions, and fill-in-the-blank questions.
 - There will be 10 questions, and the quiz is worth 10 points.
 - You have one attempt, but there is no time limit.

- 3. Submit the Module Activity by Friday.**
 - Each module asks you to complete a brief activity. It could be answering the discussion questions or submitting the assignment featuring the class topic.
 - It does NOT require any outside research. Reviewing the provided learning materials is sufficient to complete this task.
 - Each module will have a different task. More information is provided in each module.
 - Each activity is worth 10 points.

- 4. Complete TWO Peer Reviews on the Module Activity by Sunday.**
 - For each module activity, you are also invited to review two other students' assignments.
 - It is designed to promote in-depth class discussion and “in-person feeling” of interaction between peers.
 - Once you submit the original activity by the deadline, you will be automatically assigned to TWO peers for reviewing their work.
 - Canvas may need a few hours to complete the automatic assignment, so it would be safe for you to check the course site on the next morning to see your assigned peers.
 - Each set of peer reviews is worth 5 points.
 - Your comment on the peers should be written in a respectful way.
 - It must be about the contents, not about its format.
 - You should share what you newly learn from the posts if you agree or disagree with your peers' arguments/thoughts.
 - You may compare similarities and differences of the contents between your and your peers' assignments.
 - Your response should have more than 50 words. Thus, each set of peer reviews should have 100 words and more.
 - Please read the page “Information about Peer Review Requirements” in Module 0 on the course site.

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER WORK REQUIREMENTS

A. Exam Projects (40 pts per each)

During the midterm and final exam weeks, you are asked to share the research project that analyzes the important questions featuring topics in American Presidency. You will apply the theoretical concepts explored in the course to an actual case, or, if you wish, several cases to answer the questions.

Your research project will be presented as a Narrated PowerPoint presentation or any other form of video recording. You can use the voice/video recording function in PowerPoint or the screen recorder program "Screencast-O-Matic," which is free and easy to use. Your oral presentation should be less than 7-minute long, and you will watch and respond to TWO other students' presentations. This peer review is a required component of this final project. More detailed information will be posted on the course site at Canvas in advance, so you will have sufficient time to conduct the research.

B. Film Presentation & Analytic Paper (20 pts)

In Module 9, you will watch the film in light of the lecture materials and assigned readings for this course. You are free to write on any topic related to American Presidency addressed in the films, as long as they are able to incorporate and demonstrate your thorough understanding of the different assigned course readings. Please keep in mind that this assignment is NOT a film review. You should NOT discuss if you like or dislike the film. Instead, you will find the theme that is relevant to our class topics and develop the thesis statement to lay out your thoughts on many pressing questions about American Presidency. The complete instruction will be shared on the course site.

COURSE POLICIES

A. Netiquette

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as 😊 can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- What you write on the course site must be written in an academic writing format. Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Think and edit before you push the "Post Reply" button. Please remember that our course site is the public place.

B. Late Work

General Note: please keep in mind that this class is an online class. All assignments will be open in advance and have a sufficient deadline. This means that you can submit the module assignments earlier than the original dues. If you complete the module, you can move to the next module and complete them in advance. Therefore, late submission is technically not permissible.

Submission Error: you are responsible for attaching/submitting the correct assignment to the correct submission folder. When you submit your assignment, you should always click on the submitted file(s) to make sure the assignment is there. You can tell if it is attached by clicking on the submitted file(s) and actually open and view the document. You also need to double check if your post is actually submitted to the discussion forum when it was a text entry. Submitting an incorrect document/post, a blank document/post, or no document/post is counted as a failure to complete the assignment on time.

Technical Difficulties: technical difficulties of the student's equipment or internet provider are not excused. When such difficulties occur, students are expected to locate an alternative source for submitting assignments, e.g., neighbor, workplace, public library, etc. Technical difficulties caused by the University or Canvas can be excused provided the student obtains documentation from technical support. Students should always have a back-up in mind for unexpected glitches in technology.

Unexcused Late Work: I understand that you may encounter unforeseen circumstances that prevent you to complete the module activities on time. To ease your burden with the dues, I will accept your late submission **within 5 days from its original deadline**. Unexcused late submission of course work will incur **a 10% deduction per day**. Nonmajor sicknesses that do not require your surgery and/or hospital admission will be an example of unexcused late submission. In this case,

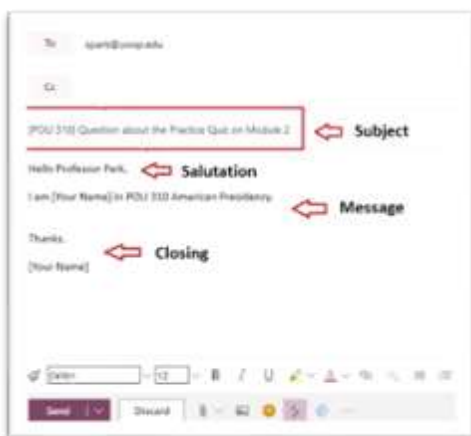
I will NOT require proof of document so that you can simply complete the module activity when it is possible within 5 days from its original due.

Excused Late Submission: for extremely rare cases, your late submission may be excused without penalty. As I explained, all activities will be open in advance so that you will have enough time to complete them. Nonetheless, you may not be able to complete the module activities in advance if university-sponsored activities (ROTC, UWSP athletic teams, etc.) are recurring events. If you have MAJOR medical treatments/surgery that requires an extensive recovery time, you may not be able to complete the module activities in advance. If it is the case, you must explain what happens and request a make-up opportunity in writing with proof of document. Then, I will verify your request on a case-by-case basis and notify you of my permission for a late submission. If your proof of document contains private information when you encounter unforeseen medical and/or personal emergencies, you may want to contact UWSP DATC and/or the Dean of Student to submit your document. Then, the office will verify your excuse for me. Then, I will determine if you will be granted excused late submission. There is NO exception for this policy.

C. Communication Policy

Muddiest Point Forum: for the general questions about the assignments, the readings, exams, and more, please use the Muddiest Point Forum. It is the Q&A forum where you can ask general questions. I will answer your questions here so that other students can also view my answers. I will attempt to check this forum every day to answer your questions. I also encourage students to respond to the questions if you know the answers. I will confirm if the answer(s) is/are right.

Email: Email is a convenient way to continue contact between professor and student outside of class. Email is best for 1-2 sentence responses, and conceptual questions do not lend themselves well to email. If you have any questions regarding your papers, please visit my office hours for an in-depth consultation. I will NOT consult on your written assignment via email. While students should take advantage of this email communication opportunity with me, you should also do so in a professional manner. I will NOT reply to emails that do not include a salutation (“Dear Prof. ...” or “Hello Dr. ...”). Please avoid using words such as “hey” or calling me with a first name.



Include a course # and the reason for contact in the subject line with a parenthesis []

Have a proper salutation

Indicate who you are and what your concerns are

I may not respond to emails that ask for answers to questions that can easily be found on the syllabus or the course site. I will only respond to questions about coursework or academic requirements, and I will not respond to questions of a personal nature. I will be able to respond to your email during weekdays (not weekends) and attempt to get back to you within 24 hours. But, please email me again if you do not receive my response within 48 hours.

Honesty: Any instance of academic misconduct will be taken seriously and may result in failure of the course. Misconduct will result in notification to the Dean of Students. If you are having a problem, it is much better to talk to me about it. Do not struggle by yourself. I want you to learn and do well in this course, not punish you with a lower grade. Talk to me if you are having a problem so I can try to help you work out a solution. In addition, there is a great resource for your study on campus. The Tutoring-Learning Center provides a variety of services to support your needs such as Writing Lab and One-On-One Assistance for Study Skills. Please contact Learning Resource Center (715-346-3568 & tlctutor@uwsp.edu & www.uwsp.edu/tlc) for more information.

Academic Coaching: if you feel you need help with any of the following skills - time management strategies, note-taking, study skills, communication on campus, or preparing for mid-terms, please consider scheduling an appointment with an Academic Coach on campus or virtually. They are here to help you be successful in your online courses when you feel you need extra support. Email **Kari Van Den Elzen** (kvandene@uwsp.edu) to schedule an appointment or use the Navigate student app by selecting Tutoring Learning Center. You can meet as many times as you need. Coaches are also available to review campus technology platforms with you. (Canvas, AccesSPoint, Office 365, Navigate, etc.)