

POL SCI 408-001  
**American Presidency**

Fall 2016  
Online Course

**Professor Hong Min Park**

Email: hmpark1@uwm.edu

Office: Bolton 680

Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:30AM

### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the *politics* of the presidency in the United States. Even though we will sometimes deal with facts and figures, the main focus is to examine the workings of the American presidency in a *scientific* way. The topics that we will intensively discuss include: 1) presidential elections; 2) presidential character and performance; 3) president's legislative role; 4) executive politics; 5) court and president; 6) president and public policy; and 7) scientific research on presidential politics.

### **Prerequisites**

There is no official pre-requisite course except for junior standing. However, it is generally assumed that students are familiar with materials that are normally covered in POL SCI 104 (Introduction to American Government and Politics).

### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- 1) Describe how the president is elected;
- 2) Understand how the president influence public opinion;
- 3) Analyze how the president competes for power with Congress and the courts;
- 4) Examine how the president influence public policy; and

This course fulfils the research requirement for L&S degree:

- 1) Students will conduct independent and original research on the American presidency;
- 2) In conducting research on the presidency, it is crucial for students to review and evaluate the relevant scholarly work in order to show the importance of their own research.
- 3) Students will share their research with their colleagues by various means including, but not limited to, oral presentation in class, author-discussant pairing, and online discussion.

This is a 3-credit online course. In order to achieve the learning goals of the course, students are expected to set aside a minimum of 6 hours each week studying the materials, and another minimum of 3 hours each week working on assignments. Assignments include taking weekly quizzes and actively participating to the online discussion, among others.

## Required Texts

The following textbook is *required*:

- Joseph A. Pika, John Anthony Maltese, and Andrew Rudalevige. 2016. *The Politics of the Presidency*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington D.C.: CQ Press.

Students will also utilize scholarly articles to enhance their *deeper* understanding of each topic. These materials will be distributed via D2L (d2l.uwm.edu).

In addition, it is strongly recommended that students regularly read national as well as local newspapers. *The New York Times* and *the Washington Post* are two excellent sources of news on politics and government. If needed, *CQ Weekly*, *Roll Call*, and the *Hill* would be nice supplements.

## Course Requirements and Grading

Every Wednesday morning at 9AM central, one document will be uploaded to D2L. It includes:

- What students are expected to do by next Wednesday;
- Reading assignment for the week;
  - It is based on substantive topics rather than number of pages. So, it is possible that students read somewhat longer reading one week but shorter reading another week.
  - While the tentative schedule below gives you rough idea about reading schedule, it is extremely important that we will follow the “actual” reading assignment that will be distributed every week (i.e. the quiz is based on this reading assignment).
- Discussion question for the week;
  - Students are required to share their thoughts with classmates in two ways
    - First, every student need to participate in the discussion at least ONCE between Wednesday 9AM and Friday 5PM.
    - Second, depending on progress of discussion, I will participate in the discussion in a way that requires some deeper and careful thoughts. Then, students have opportunities to share their thoughts again with classmates.
  - Students cannot endorse certain political (and partisan) views in a very aggressive way. We all have political and partisan perspectives, but it is important that we need to elaborate them in a more academic and professional manner.
  - As always, quality is far more important than quantity. In addition, it is NOT considered to be discussion if it is just simple careless expression including, but not limited to, “okay” “agreed” and “exactly what I wanted to say.”
- Weekly quiz that aims to check if students finish the reading assignment.
  - While the quiz is uploaded at 9AM, students can actually “start” the quiz anytime on Wednesday, from 9AM to midnight.
  - Once the quiz is “open,” it must be completed within 30 minutes.

The final course grading will be based upon four parts:

- 1) **Weekly Quiz** (50%): Throughout the semester, we will have ten (10) quizzes in total. As such, each weekly quiz is worth 5% of the final course grade.
- 2) **Discussion** (20%): We will start from the point 20. Whenever a student does not participate in the weekly discussion, one (1) point will be subtracted.

- 3) **Research (25%):** Students will conduct independent and original research on the American presidency. It should be typed and double-spaced with the 10 page-limit. The specific guidance on the research requirement will be distributed later in the semester.
- 4) **Research – Discussant (5%):** We will do “pairing” that assigns one student to another student’s research paper. Each student will be in charge of the discussion role for his/her pair. It should also be typed and double-spaced. The specific guidance will come later in the semester, too.

Students who take this course under the Pass/Fail option must receive a grade of C or better in order to obtain a Pass on their final grade. A final grade of “Incomplete” will only be given under exceptional circumstances and is solely at the discretion of Professor Park.

As a general rule, make-ups for any course requirements will not be given. Students who miss requirements because of scheduled activities of an official University student organization, a religious holiday, or a verifiable illness should contact Professor Park *in advance of* missing them so that alternative arrangements can be made.

If there is a dispute regarding a grade, re-grading is possible under two conditions:

- We will have a “cooling” period of at least TWO business days. Any complaints or disputes will NOT be considered in this period.
- Then, all complaints must be *typed* and must clearly express specific concerns. These written statements must be accompanied by citations of support from course materials, i.e. readings, textbooks, and/or lecture notes, in order to ensure accuracy.

### **Classroom Policies and Instructor Availability**

All students are expected to behave professionally in this online class. Class discussions are expected to be civil, rational, and respectful of others’ opinions. Please do not intimidate, patronize, or ridicule anyone else during the course of classroom activities.

If students would like to speak with Professor Park outside of the online class, feel free to stop by the office (Bolton 680) during regularly scheduled **office hours (Tuesdays 10:00-11:30AM)**. If students are unable to attend office hours, but would like to meet with Professor Park, it is strongly recommended to make an appointment via email first.

### **Academic Integrity and Student Disabilities**

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has detailed its policies on academic integrity ([http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad\\_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm](http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm)). Students should acquaint themselves with policies concerning cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and academic interference. Any submission of work by a student in this course constitutes a certificate that the work complies with university policies on academic integrity.

Any student with disabilities of any kind (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, systemic, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact Professor Park and the Student Accessibility Center (Mitchell 112, 414-229-6287, <http://www4.uwm.edu/sac>) at the beginning of the semester.

## Tentative Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule for the semester. Professor Park reserves the rights to alter the reading assignments and quiz dates in a timely fashion according to the progress of the class. **PMR** indicates Pika, Maltese, and Rudalevige (2016) textbook.

1. Introduction – Week 1
2. President in Context – Week 2
  - PMR 1
  - U.S. Constitution, Articles I, II, III, and Amendments
3. Presidential Elections – Week 3 & 4
  - PMR 2
  - Alan I. Abramowitz. 2008. “Forecasting the 2008 Presidential Election with the Time-for-Change Model.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 41: 691-695.
  - Gregory A. Huber and Kevin Arceneaux. 2007. “Identifying the Persuasive Effects of Presidential Advertising.” *American Journal of Political Science* 51: 957-977.
4. Public Politics – Week 5
  - PMR 3
  - James N. Druckman and Justin W. Holmes. 2004. “Does Presidential Rhetoric Matter? Priming and Presidential Approval.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 34: 755-778.
5. Character and Performance – Week 6
  - PMR 4
  - Richard Neustadt. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. New York: Free Press. Chapter 3.
6. President and Congress – Week 7
  - PMR 5
  - Terry M. Moe and William G. Howell. 1999. “Unilateral Action and Presidential Power: A Theory.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 29: 850-873.
7. Selection of Research Topic – Week 8 (**Deadline: November 2, 2016**)
  - Students are *required* to write a one-page summary of their research topic. This includes the research question in one sentence, the research design in one paragraph, and the expected conclusion in one paragraph.
  - Then, it should also be delivered to their research discussant. Discussants, upon receiving the summary, should provide some feedback within a week or so.
8. 2016 Presidential Election – Week 9 (November 2 – 9, 2016)
  - Read/watch news of any kinds to follow up the 2016 presidential election.
9. Executive Politics – Week 10
  - PMR 6
  - Barry R. Weingast. 2005. “Caught in the Middle: The President, Congress, and the Political Bureaucratic System.” In *Institutions of American Democracy: The Executive Branch*.

10. Judicial Politics – Week 11

- PMR 7
- Byron J. Moraski and Charles R. Shipan. 1999. “The Politics of Supreme Court Nominations: A Theory of Institutional Constrains and Choices.” *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 1069-1095.

Thanksgivings Break – Week 12

11. President and Public Policy – Week 13

- PMR 8, 9, 10
- William G. Howell and Jon Pevehouse. 2005. “Presidents, Congress, and the Use of Force.” *International Organization* 59: 209-232.

12. Research Paper – Week 14 (**Deadline: December 14, 2016**)

- Students are *required* to write the first draft of their research paper.
- It is expected to be at least 5 pages long, typed and double spaced.
- Then, it should also be delivered to their research discussant. Discussant, upon receiving the first draft, should provide short feedback with one or two days.

13. Research Paper – Week 15 (**Deadline: December 21, 2016**)

- Students are required to write their research paper. It should be typed and double-spaced with the 10 page-limit.