

W4316y: The American Presidency

Course description: The politics and processes of the American presidency, including the creation and development of the presidential office, theories of presidential power, domestic policy leadership and decision processes, and national security decision-making.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing is required. Prior coursework in political science, particularly American national politics, is recommended.

Requirements: Attendance at all lectures. Students taking the course for a grade must complete two take-home midterm essays and one take-home final essay (each essay is approximately twelve to sixteen printout pages) on assigned topics based on the course readings and lectures. All readings in books are required and can be obtained in the SIPA or Barnard College library reserve reading rooms. Many readings are also available at local bookstores, especially Book Culture (off Broadway at 112th Street). Many articles will be e-mailed to the class (as listed on syllabus).

Contact Information: Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-4:00 pm Room 408 Lehman Hall (Barnard Library building) and by appointment. E-mail: rpious@barnard.edu.

Topics and Readings

Part One: The Creation and Development of the Presidency

January 22: The Creation of the Presidency

Richard Pious The Presidency ch. 2 (e-mailed to class)
Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System (tenth ed.) Tulis

January 27: The Pre-Modern Presidency

Richard Pious The Presidency ch. 3 (e-mailed to class)

January 29: The Modern Presidency

Fred Greenstein, ed. Leadership in the Modern Presidency, (Intro, chs. 1,2,4,10)

February 3: A Postmodern Presidency?

James Thurber, ed. Obama in Office (Korb and Rothman) (e-mailed to class)

Part Two: Sources of Presidential Power

February 5, 10: Presidential Power vs. the Hidden Hand Presidency

Richard E. Neustadt Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents chs. 1-7
Fred Greenstein, ed. Leadership in the Modern Presidency, ch. 3
Richard Pious Why Presidents Fail, ch. 2

February 12: Power in Political Time

Steven Skowronek "Presidential Leadership in Political Time" (e-mailed to class)
Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System, (tenth edition)
Tichenor

February 17, 19: The Prerogative Presidency

Richard Pious “Presidential Prerogative Power” Oxford Handbook of The American Presidency (e-mailed to class)
Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System, (tenth edition)
Rudalevige
James Thurber, ed. Obama in Office (Pious) (e-mailed to class)

**First Midterm Essay Covering Parts I and II:
Handed Out February 10, due February 24**

Part Three: Presidential Domestic Political Leadership

February 24: Party Leadership

Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System (tenth edition), Milkis
James Thurber, ed. Obama in Office (Owens) (e-mailed to class)

February 26, March 3 National Agenda Leadership

Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System (tenth ed)
Miroff, Lim
James Thurber, ed. Obama in Office (Boyd, Jacobson, Lilly) (e-mailed to class)
Richard Pious Why Presidents Fail, ch. 5

March 5: Legislative Leadership

Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System, (tenth ed.) Dickinson
James Thurber, ed. Obama in Office (Sinclair, James Thurber)

March 10: The Administrative Presidency

Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System, (tenth edition)
Burke, Moe
James Thurber, ed. Obama in Office (Pfiffner) (e-mailed to class)

March 12: Presidents and the Courts

Michael Nelson, ed. The Presidency and the Political System, (tenth ed.) Yalof
Richard Pious The Presidency ch. 11 (e-mailed to class)

March 24: The Budget Process

Richard Pious The Presidency, ch. 12 (e-mailed to class)
Richard Pious Why Presidents Fail, ch. 7
James Thurber, ed. Obama in Office (White) (e-mailed to class)

March 26: Economic Policymaking

Richard Pious The Presidency, ch. 13 (e-mailed to class)
Richard Pious “The Devolution of Fiscal Policymaking” (e-mailed to class)

Part Four: Foreign Policymaking

March 31: Presidentializing Foreign Policy

Alexander George	<u>Presidential Decisionmaking in Foreign Policy</u> chs. 4-6, 8-11
Richard Pious	"Franklin Roosevelt and the Destroyer Deal" (e-mailed to class)
Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , ch. 1

**Second Midterm Essay Covering Part III:
Handed Out March 12, due March 31**

April 2: Case Study: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Graham Allison	"Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis" (e-mailed to class)
Richard Pious	"The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Limits of Crisis Management" (e-mailed to class)

April 7: Inter-branch Policy Co-determination and Intelligence

Thomas Mann ed.	<u>A Question of Balance</u> (Treverton, Blechman) (e-mailed to class)
Louis Fisher	<u>Presidential War Power</u> , ch. 8 (e-mailed to class)

April 9: Case Study: the Iran-Contra Affair

Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , ch. 6
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Part Five: Presidential War Powers

April 14: Hard Prerogative: Vietnam

Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , ch. 3
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April 16: The Framework Approach: The War Powers Resolution

Thomas Mann, ed.	<u>A Question of Balance</u> (Katzmann) (e-mail to class)
Louis Fisher	<u>Presidential War Power</u> , ch. 6 (e-mailed to class)

April 21 : Clinton and War Powers

Michael Nelson, ed.	<u>The Presidency and the Political System</u> , (tenth ed.) Polsky
David Adler	"The Clinton Theory of the War Power," (e-mail to class)

April 23: Soft Prerogative: Iraq

Richard Pious	<u>Why Presidents Fail</u> , ch. 9
Louis Fisher	"When Wars Begin: Misleading Statements by Presidents" (e-mailed to class)

April 28: Obama and the Use of Force

James Thurber, ed.	<u>Obama in Office</u> (Korb and Rothman)
Richard Pious	"White House Decisionmaking Involving

Paramilitaries” (e-mailed to class)

April 30: How Presidents Fail, and How Presidents Might Succeed

Richard Pious Why Presidents Fail, chs. 10, 11
Richard Pious “What’s Wrong with Rational Choice?” Frameworks institute
(courseworks)

**Final Essay Covering Parts IV and V:
Handed Out April 23, due May 5, 11:00 pm (e-mail)**

Availability of Readings in the Columbia University Libraries (materials e-mailed to class are not included in this list)

Leadership in the Modern Presidency

Edited by Fred I. Greenstein

E176.1 .L33 1988

Barnard Course Reserves: 3 Copies

Lehman Reserves: 4 Copies

Milstein [Butler]: 2 Copies

**Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents:
the politics of leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan**

Richard E. Neustadt

JK516 .N4 1990

Barnard Course Reserves: 3 Copies

Butler Reserves, 208 Butler: 4 Copies

Lehman Reserves: 5 Copies

Why Presidents Fail

Richard Pious

JK511.P56 2008

Barnard Course Reserves: 3

Lehman Reserves: 3

Presidential Decisionmaking in Foreign Policy

Alexander George

JK570.G46

Barnard Course Reserves: 1

Lehman Reserves: 6

Milstein Butler Reserves: 3

**A Question of Balance:
the president, the Congress, and foreign policy**

Edited by Thomas E. Mann

JK570 .Q44 1990

Barnard Course Reserves: 2 Copies

Lehman Reserves: 4 Copies

Milstein: 1 Copy

Presidential War Power

Louis Fisher

KF5060 .F57 2004

Barnard Course Reserves: 1 Copies

Lehman Reserves: 1 Copy

(or 1995 version, Barnard 1, Butler Stacks 2, Lehman 1, Milstein 2)