



Department of Political Science and
Criminal Justice

*Master of Public Administration
Program*

POLS 4111 / 6111, Section A
The Presidency
Summer Session 2008

Dr. Barry D. Friedman
Young Social Science Center 114
(706) 864-1916
E-mail: bfriedman@NGCSU.edu
Office Hours: TTh 3-5 p.m.

Course Objective

This course is an examination and analysis of the evolution and significance of the presidency in the United States and a study of how its incumbents have used and misused their authority. We will examine the president's sources of power, relationships with other actors inside and outside the national government, political relationships and maneuverings, execution of laws and supervision of executive officials, and personality traits that affect popularity and performance.

Although President George Washington approached the presidency with relative humility and adopted the simple title, "Mr. President," the public continues to harbor the myth that the presidency is a repository of enormous influence and raw power. We will take a more temperate view of presidential influence and power, to evaluate how much of presidential activity truly affects policy and how much of it leads to frustration and failure for the incumbents of the office.

Course Requirements

NOTICE TO GRADUATE STUDENTS enrolled in POLS 6111 for graduate credit: Graduate students will be evaluated in accordance with standards normally applied to graduate study. Application of knowledge from your undergraduate education and analytical approaches to problems are expected. Graduate students are also expected to have a familiarity with the identities of scholars in political science who are credited with major findings and theories.

1. TEXTBOOKS

The required textbooks, which are available at the NGCSU Campus Connection bookstore, are:

Cohen, Jeffrey, and Nice, David. *The Presidency*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Edwards, George C. III, and Wayne, Stephen J. *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*. 7th ed. Belmont, Calif.: Thomson Wadsworth, 2006.

Friedman, Barry D. *Regulation in the Reagan-Bush Era: The Eruption of Presidential Influence*. Pittsburgh, Penn.: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1995.

Study the assigned readings on a timely basis in accordance with the attached schedule. To "study" does not mean to scan; rather, to "study" involves careful reading and note-taking (or underlining) to facilitate retention of facts and to facilitate review for the examination.

2. EXAMINATIONS

There will be a midterm examination on Tuesday, July 1. It will account for 40 percent of the course grade. There will be a final examination on Thursday, July 31. It will account for 45 percent of the course grade.

If, when an examination is in progress, you have in your possession an electronic device that emits a signal, I will collect your examination and you will be ejected from the classroom. Any refusal to acquiesce may result in a grade of zero and submission of a disciplinary complaint.

3. OPTIONAL TERM PAPER

A student may opt to write a term paper about some aspect of the presidency. The topic must be submitted to the instructor for his approval before research is begun. The paper must reference the literature of political science (such as textbooks, monographs, and scholarly journals) in order to analyze the subject under study. Refer to Appendix A of the Edwards and Wayne textbook for advice about conducting research about the presidency. The following factors, among others, may reduce one's score on this assignment: (a) deviations from APA style (see discussion below) and (b) carelessness with grammar, sentence structure, and other conventional rules for compositions.

If a student wishes to write a term paper, it will count as 30 percent of the course grade; the weight of each of the examinations will be reduced by 15 percentage points. However, if the grade on the term paper is lower than the weighted average of the examination scores, the term paper

will be *disregarded* in the determination of the course grade, except that plagiarism is *never* disregarded.

You must use full-blown APA style on this research paper. You are advised to obtain a copy of the style manual if you don't already own one. It is available, for example, at this Web site:

<http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>

A really helpful resource is the accompanying software to the APA style manual. The software is available by direct download or by purchase of an actual CD-ROM. *I strongly advise the purchase of the CD-ROM rather than the direct download.* The software is available, for example, at this Web site:

<http://www.apastyle.org/stylehelper/>

I would appreciate it if you would use the *modifications* to APA style that appear at this Web site:

<http://www.NGCSU.edu/bdf/MPAprog/APAmd.htm>

There is a link on that Web page to a paper that Maria J. Albo (M.P.A., '08) wrote during the spring semester and that I consider a model of APA style, including the aforementioned modifications.

The optional term paper is due on Thursday, July 24. Lateness will involve a 10-percentage-point penalty per week or part thereof; the instructor will not be obligated to accept any term paper submitted after the final examination is concluded.

4. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is compulsory. You are considered responsible for being attentive to lectures and class discussions, for taking notes, and for being aware of the content of all class announcements. Please take note of the university's policy on "Class Attendance" (2006-2008 *Undergraduate Bulletin*, p. 72) which is incorporated herein by reference. A student who accumulates more than three unexcused absences can expect to receive a "W" or "WF", or to sustain a reduction in the course grade.

5. PARTICIPATION

Class participation and proper conduct are both expected, and will determine 15 percent of the course grade. As stated in the "Regulations of the M.P.A. Program," the participation requirement is based on this policy:

In most cases, it is improper for a student to be a passive spectator in class sessions. M.P.A. students are expected to be active participants in the proceedings of their classes. Contributions to class discussions are vital to the experience of graduate study in public administration and enhance the value of the program for all students enrolled in it.

Accordingly, the score for participation and conduct will involve these considerations: (1) ability to cite and interpret readings assigned for homework, (2) contribution to collective problem-solving processes, (3) demonstration of adaptability in coping with new situations, and (4) ability to support and enhance the value of the work of peers.

Do not bring to class items that will emit audible signals, such as cell phones and watches that announce the top of the hour. If you have such an item in your possession, and it emits a sound, your course grade will be reduced by 1½ to 3 percentage points (depending on volume, with the instructor's evaluation being final) for each incident; your participation score may also be affected. During an examination, if you have such an item in your possession, and it emits a sound, you must turn in your examination immediately and leave; failure to follow this instruction will result in a score of zero and, possibly, a disciplinary complaint.

6. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

a. Incorporation of other controlling authority. All of the rules, regulations, and standards published in the undergraduate and graduate bulletins of North Georgia College & State University and the "Regulations of the M.P.A. Program" are incorporated by reference in this document.

b. Cheating and plagiarism. NGCSU's integrity code--"On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth, or tolerate those who do"--reflects the university's commitment to academic integrity. The "Academic Integrity Policy" (2006-2008 *Undergraduate Bulletin*, pp. 81-84) is incorporated herein by reference. Please note that in this

course, as in all others at NGCSU, plagiarism and other forms of cheating are expressly prohibited. Any student who commits plagiarism or cheating may receive a reduced grade, which may involve a failing grade; furthermore, an M.P.A. student's matriculation in the M.P.A. Program may be terminated by the M.P.A. Advisory Committee. A report of the incident will be provided to the university's Academic Integrity Council. The council and the vice president for academic affairs may take additional action, which may include a formal reprimand, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university.

This section of POLS 4111/6111 may use plagiarism-prevention technology. The papers may be retained by the clearinghouse for the sole purpose of checking for plagiarized content in future student submissions. Alternatively, the instructor may use an Internet search engine to evaluate whether a student submission contains plagiarized content.

c. Disabilities and accommodations. North Georgia College & State University is committed to equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, reasonable *prior* notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Office of Student Disability Resources. In this case, contact Elizabeth McIntosh, coordinator of student disability resources, at Barnes Hall, Room 122 (706-867-2782).

d. On-line students' evaluation of course. Course evaluations at NGCSU are now conducted on-line through BANNER. Evaluation of the class is considered a component of the course and students will not be permitted to access their course grade until the evaluation has been completed. The evaluations will be accessible beginning one week prior to the final-exam week.

e. Course grades. Course grades are available on BANNER Web 2000 within about two days of the end of final examinations. Except in emergency situations, please do not request grades by telephone, E-mail, or similar method.

SCHEDULE OF READING ASSIGNMENTS

Note: In the following schedule of reading assignments, the abbreviation "CN" refers to the Cohen and Nice textbook, "EW" refers to the Edwards and Wayne textbook, and "F" refers to the Friedman monograph.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Th	June 5	Introduction The Constitution Political Socialization, Public Relations, and Public Opinion	CN 1-53, 55-59, 62-68, 203-237 EW 1-27, 100-153
T	June 10	Foreign Relations The Cabinet Departments and Bureaus	CN 59-62, 312-327, 341-347, 433-465 EW 193-198, 286-307, 313-329, 475-498
Th	June 12	Executive Office of the President The White House Office of Management and Budget	CN 53-55, 238-257, 262-269, 400-432 EW 7-9, 198-212, 412-421, 442-474
T	June 17	Regulatory Agencies Appointments Vice Presidency	CN 125-129, 257-262, 327-333 EW 212-216, 307-313 F 14-19
Th	June 19	No Class	
T	June 24	Nominations Primaries and Conventions General Election Campaign Campaign Strategy	CN 69-88, 92-95 EW 28-60, 65-86
Th	June 26	Electoral College Election Results Transition Life Cycle of President's Administration	CN 88-92 EW 60-65, 86-99
T	July 1	MIDTERM EXAMINATION Separation of Powers Discussion of Optional Term-Paper Assignment	CN 12-13 EW 499-517

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Th	July 3	President and Congress President and the Courts	CN 270-311, 348-371 EW 330-408
T	July 8	President and the News Media Presidential Character and Personality Integrity and Misconduct	CN 96-124, 166-202 EW 154-192, 254-285
Th	July 10	Domestic Policy Implementation Decision-Making	CN 130-165, 372-399 EW 223-253, 409-414, 421-441
T	July 15	Regulation Regulatory Oversight Regulatory Review	CN 333-340 F 1-42
Th	July 17	Bargaining and Compromise	F 59-106, 179-194
T	July 22	Reagan's "Regulatory Relief" Congress's and the Judiciary's Role in Regulatory Oversight Regulatory Policy Under Recent Presidents	F 43-58, 106-178
Th	July 24	TERM PAPER DUE Military Policy	
T	July 29	Remaining Topics Review	
Th	July 31	FINAL EXAMINATION (7 p.m.)	