PS 101, “The Presidency and the Executive Branch,” focuses on the role of presidents in the formulation of domestic and foreign policy. Other topics include presidential elections, styles of leadership, personality and character, relations with Congress, and control of the bureaucracy. Course requirements are a midterm (30 percent), a short paper (30 percent), and a final (30 percent). Class participation will count for the remaining 10 percent of your grade. For purposes of the examinations, you are responsible for all readings, all lectures, and all classroom discussions. I will designate in advance particular days for class discussions of the readings.

The paper will focus on the 2016 presidential election. You will select one of the swing states (i.e., Florida, Ohio) that could determine the outcome of the election. You will analyze the state’s partisan composition, recent electoral trends, demographics, and economy and then explain why it is currently a purple state rather than a red or blue one. A separate handout will go into this in more detail. We’ll also meet with a University librarian who will introduce you to some available online resources.

Although this is not a class on current events, I will use current events to illustrate enduring issues in our political system. The course will certainly be topical and to that end I expect you to keep up with the news. Having spoken with many undergraduates in the past few years about how they monitor the news, I’ve come to understand that most blend a variety of outlets that they access through their laptop and smart phone. There are lots of great sources of news but for daily political coverage none are better than the New York Times and the Washington Post. However, any quality outlets are fine.

My office hours this semester are Mondays 3:00-4:30 and Wednesdays 11:00-12:00. If those times are not convenient, I’d be happy to see you at another time by appointment. You can contact me by phone at X7-3465 or by e-mail at jeffrey.berry@tufts.edu. E-mail is fine for short questions. If you have a more substantive question, I hope you’ll please come see me in my office. In addition to issues relating to the class, I’m available for political science and pre-law advising. Whatever the reason, please try to come by my office at least once this semester so I can get to know you a little better.

The following books are available for purchase at the book store. I’ve also placed them on reserve at Tisch:

Joseph Ellis, The Quartet
John Sides and Lynn Vavreck, The Gamble
George C. Edwards III, Overreach
Richard E. Neustadt and Ernest R. May, Thinking in Time
Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*
Fred I. Greenstein, *The Hidden-Hand Presidency*

**SEPT 9: INTRODUCTION**

**SEPT 14:** *Political Polarization in the American Public*, Pew Center (link on Trunk); begin
Sides and Vavreck, *The Gamble*

**SEPT 21:** Finish Sides and Vavreck, *The Gamble*
**SEPT 23:** No class

**SEPT 28:** Ellis, *The Quartet*
Article II of the Constitution and Amendments XII, XX, XXII, and XXV (link on Trunk; note that text in a different color has been superseded by constitutional amendments)

**OCT 5:** Meet in Tisch Library, Room 223, for session on available term paper resources
Greenstein, *The Hidden-Hand Presidency*

**OCT 12:** Neustadt and May, *Thinking in Time*, chapters. 1-8

**OCT 19:** Neustadt and May, *Thinking in Time*, chapters. 9-14
Lizza, “The Gatekeeper” (Trunk)

**OCT 21:** Take-home midterm handed out

**OCT 26:** Midterm due at beginning of class

**NOV 2:** Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, chapters 10-15

**NOV 9:** Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, chapters 16-21
**NOV 10:** Wednesday’s schedule

**NOV 16:** Jervis, “Why Intelligence and Policymakers Clash” (Trunk)
Mazzetti et al, “SEAL Team 6” (Trunk)

**NOV 23:** Paper due at beginning of class

**NOV 30:** Edwards, *Overreach*

**DEC 7:** Milkis et al, “What Happened to Post-Partisanship?”