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. I’ll provide some help on available resources to get you started.

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. Media coverage of the presidency, especially in the context of the 2016 election will be just one of the topics we’ll cover.

My office hours this semester are Mondays 3:00-4:30 and Wednesdays 10:30-12:00. 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 7: INTRODUCTION

SEPT 12: *Political Polarization in the American Public*, Pew Center (link on Trunk, through section 6)

SEPT 19: Sides and Vavreck, *The Gamble*, Chaps. 4-8
Sides, Tesler, and Vavreck, “The Electoral Landscape of 2016” (Trunk, click on “Full Text” at the first screen for a better quality view of the charts)

SEPT 26: 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 3: No Class
OCT 5: Greenstein, *The Hidden-Hand Presidency*

OCT 10: No class; begin Neustadt and May, *Thinking in Time*, chapters. 1-8
OCT 12: No class

OCT 17: Neustadt and May, *Thinking in Time*, chapters. 9-14
Smith, *Bush* (chapter 8; handout)

OCT 24: Take-home midterm handed out
OCT 28: Midterm due, noon

OCT 31: Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, chapters 10-15

NOV 7: Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, chapters 16-21
NOV 7: Oral report on your swing-state paper (ungraded; paper itself not due)

NOV 14: Mazzetti et al, “SEAL Team 6” (Trunk)
Berry and Sobieraj, “Anger is a Business” (Trunk)

NOV 21: Paper due at beginning of class

NOV 28: Edwards, *Overreach*

DEC 5: Milkis et al, “What Happened to Post-Partisanship?”