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 2018 congressional election. Although this isn’t a course on Congress per se, one of the main topics in class is national elections. We’ll analyze what happened in 2016 and try to understand if similar dynamics are at work in 2018? Alternatively, is there a retreat from Trump and a movement toward the Democrats? Looking at this year’s House and Senate races will offer some clues—though no certainty—about the next presidential election in 2020. You will choose to focus on one of the Senate seats in play, one of the more visible swing seats in the House, or a group of House seats up for grabs in a single state (such as the Orange County, CA seats that have been controlled by the Republicans or the three seats in Washington state that are competitive). I’ll identify some such races but you’re free to go beyond that list. A separate handout will go into this in more detail and I’ll provide some help on available resources to get you started. The paper will be of moderate length and scope.

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. In this context I’ll suggest some sources that are particularly good for following the election that you can add to your mix if you like.

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 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:
John Sides, Michael Tessler, and Lynn Vavreck, *Identity Crisis* (pub. date, Oct. 23rd)
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*
Bob Woodward, *Fear* (pub. date, Sept. 11th)

*Please note that readings aside from the books are in the Canvas site under the Module “Course Readings”*

**SEPT 5:** INTRODUCTION

**SEPT 10:** No Class
**SEPT 12:** Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, Chaps.10-15
   Article II of the Constitution and Amendments XII, XX, XXII, and XXV (Canvas; note that text in a different color has been superseded by constitutional amendments)

**SEPT 17:** Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, Chaps. 16-21
   Milkis et al, “What Happened to Post-Partisanship?” (Canvas)

**SEPT 19:** No Class

**SEPT 24:** Greenstein, *Hidden-Hand Presidency*

**OCT 1:** Edwards, *Overreach*, Introduction and Chaps. 1-3
**OCT 3:** Class meets in Tisch Library, Room 223

**OCT 9** (Tuesday class per Tufts schedule):

**OCT 15:** Edwards, *Overreach*, Chaps. 4-7

**OCT 22:** Midterm handed out
**OCT 26:** Midterm due, 4:00 pm, Professor Berry’s box outside his door, second floor, Packard

**OCT 29:** Neustadt and May, Chaps. 1-8

**NOV 5:** Neustadt and May, Chaps. 9-14

**NOV 7:** Begin Sides, Tessler, and Vavreck, *Identity Crisis*

**NOV 12:** Veterans’ Day (no class)
**NOV 14:** Continue Sides, Tessler, and Vavreck, *Identity Crisis*

**NOV 19:** Begin Woodward, *Fear*
NOV 26: Continue, Woodward, *Fear*

DEC 3: Berry and Sobieraj, “Are Americans Addicted to Outrage” (Canvas)

DEC 10: Term papers due at beginning of class