

**PS 101, "The Presidency and
The Executive Branch"
Fall, 2019
Professor Berry**

**Office Hours: M: 3:00-4:30
W: 10:30-12:00
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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 (20 percent), and a final (40 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.

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. The readings move across time and while some focus on a particular president, others look at many presidents in the context of a particular aspect of the office. There may be some very short, journalistic readings added to this reading list as we go through the semester.

The following books are available for purchase at the book store and you should also be able to find them easily at online retailers if you prefer that option. The bookstore may have used or rental copies. Finally, I've placed the books on reserve at Tisch:

John Sides, Michael Tessler, and Lynn Vavreck, *Identity Crisis*
George C. Edwards III, *Predicting the Presidency*
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*

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

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 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 “paper” referenced in the first paragraph is actually a PowerPoint assignment. You will develop the topic (which must be approved by me) and submit the PowerPoint in electronic form by Nov. 22nd. You can take a particular decision of a president, an election, an element of war, a scandal, a policy pushed by a president, public opinion about a president, a comparison of how two presidents handled a similar problem, an economic trend, a foreign policy crisis, or just about anything that relates to the presidency. This is a modest assignment (maximum 20 slides) and I hope you’ll combine creativity with a compelling social science focus. A more detailed handout on this assignment will be distributed later in the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

SEPT 4: INTRODUCTION

SEPT 9: 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 16: Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, Chaps. 16-21

SEPT 23: Greenstein, *Hidden-Hand Presidency*

SEPT 30: Rosh Hashana, No Class

OCT 7: Edwards, *Predicting the Presidency*, Chaps. 1-4

OCT 9: Yom Kippur, No Class

OCT 15: Edwards, *Predicting the Presidency*, Chaps. 5-10

OCT 21: Midterm handed out; due in hard copy Oct. 25th by 4:00 pm, placed in Professor Berry’s box outside his door, second floor, Packard Hall

OCT 28: Neustadt and May, *Thinking in Time*, Chaps. 1-8

NOV 4: Neustadt and May, Chaps. 9-14

NOV 13: Woodward, *Fear*, Prologue and Chaps. 1-21

NOV 18: Woodward, *Fear*, Chaps. 22-42

NOV 22: PowerPoint assignment due (email to Professor)

NOV 25: Sides, Tessler, and Vavreck, *Identity Crisis*, Chaps. 1-5

DEC 2: Sides, Tessler, and Vavreck, *Identity Crisis*, Chaps.6-9

Jacobson, “Extreme Referendum: Donald Trump and the 2018 Midterm Elections” (Canvas)