# POLI 310 The American Presidency

**Important Note:** This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email.

# Course Information

## Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Saemyi Park
**Office:** CCC468
**Virtual Office Hours:** From 10AM to 2PM on every Wednesday throughout the semester
**Office Telephone:** 715-346-4107
**E-mail:** spark@uwsp.edu

## Course Information
**Course Description:** This course will analyze the development and modern practice of presidential leadership in the Unites States. We will examine different perspectives of understanding presidential leadership, the process of presidential selection, and the structure of the presidency as an institution. We will also explore the relationship of the presidency with other major governmental institutions, the press, the public, and the parties. Its primary concern is with the political resources and constraints inflicting the president's ability to provide leadership in the U.S. political system.
**Credits:** 3 credits
**Prerequisite:** None.

## Expected Instructor Response Times
- I will attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours please resend your email.
  - ***If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to **the Muddiest Point Forum** found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.
- I will attempt to reply to and assess student discussion posts within 48 hours of discussions closing.
- I will attempt to grade written work within 72 hours; however, longer written assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

## Textbook & Course Materials

**Required Text:** There is no required textbook to purchase or rent.
**Recommended Texts & Other Readings:** Scholarly articles and other readings are assigned to each subject, which are accessible through the course in Canvas. Please check out each module.

## Course Technology Requirements

- Minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for online courses can be found here.

- You will also need access to the following tools to participate in this course.

  o webcam

  o microphone

  o a stable internet connection (don't rely on cellular)

## Course Structure

This course uses Canvas, the New Learning Management System (LMS) being adapted across the UW System. Canvas can be accessed via a launch portal at https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas using your campus login and password. Help in Canvas is available at the bottom of the launch portal, and through the "Help" menu within Canvas.  A student orientation / training course is available for self registration at https://uws.instructure.com/enroll/FNRAL8. Face to Face training sessions will be offered the last week of August and through September, and will be announced in the SMOD and linked from the launch portal.

## Student Expectations

In this course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.

- communicate via email
- complete basic internet searches
- download and upload documents to the LMS
- read documents online
- view online videos
- participate in online discussions
- complete quizzes/tests online
- submit files to Canvas
- participate in synchronous online discussions

## Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas you can:

- Visit with a Student Technology Tutor
  "https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/ComputerGuides.aspx"

- Seek assistance from the IT Service Desk (Formerly HELP Desk)
  - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
  - IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu

# Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Articulate the Constitutional foundations of American presidency
- Examine different perspectives of understanding presidential powers (war power; legislative power; executive power; rhetorical power)
- Identify the process of presidential selection (the primary election & the general election)
- Analyze the relationship between the presidency and other government institutions (Congress and the Courts)
- Explain the structure of the executive branch and the president's core circles
- Evaluate the roles of the press and the public as sources and constraints to the presidency

You will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Complete readings and learning materials for each module
- Take practice quiz (two times per module)
- Participate in the discussion (once per module)
- Submit the News Story Assignment and Peer Review (once per module)
- Watch the films featuring the subjects (two times per semester)
- Write a film analysis paper (two times per semester)
- Take the unit test (once per module)

# Topic Outline/Schedule

**Important Note:** Refer to the Canvas course calendar for specific meeting dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

- **Week 01: Introduction (9/4-9/7)**
    - o  The Introduce Yourself Forum (Sep 6)
    - o  Respond to the Introduce Yourself Forum (Sep 7)
    - o  Syllabus Quiz (Sep 7)
- **Week 02: Constitutional Foundation (9/10-9/21)**
    - o  Module 2 Practice Quiz #1 (Sep 11)
    - o  Module 2 Practice Quiz #2 (Sep 14)
    - o  The Constitutional Foundation Forum (Sep 16)
    - o  Respond to the Constitutional Foundation Forum (Sep 18)
    - o  Module 2 News Story Assignment & Peer Review (Sep 20 & Sep 21)
    - o  Module 2 Unit Test (Sep 21)
- **Week 03: Presidential War Power (9/24-10/5)**
    - o  Module 3 Practice Quiz #1 (Sep 25)
    - o  Module 3 Practice Quiz #2 (Sep 28)
    - o  The Presidential War Power Forum (Sep 30)
    - o  Respond to the Presidential War Power Forum (Oct 2)
    - o  Module 3 News Story Assignment & Peer Review (Oct 4 & Oct 5)
    - o  Module 3 Unit Test (Oct 5)
- **Week 04: President's Legislative and Executive Powers (10/8-10/19)**
    - o  Module 4 Practice Quiz #1 (Oct 9)
    - o  Module 4 Practice Quiz #2 (Oct 12)
    - o  The Legislative and Executive Power Forum (Oct 14)
    - o  Respond to the Legislative and Executive Power Forum (Oct 16)
    - o  Module 4 News Story Assignment & Peer Review (Oct 18 & Oct 19)
    - o  Module 4 Unit Test (Oct 19)
- **Week 05: The Process of Presidential Selection (10/22-11/2)**
    - o  Module 5 Practice Quiz #1 (Oct 22)
    - o  Module 5 Practice Quiz #2 (Oct 26)
    - o  The Electoral College Reform Forum (Oct 28)
    - o  Respond to the Electoral College Reform Forum (Oct 30)
    - o  Module 5 Campaign Ads Analysis Assignment & Peer Review (Nov 1 & Nov 2)
    - o  Module 5 Unit Test (Nov 2)

- **Week 06: The Structure of Presidency as an Institution (11/5-11/16)**
    - Module 6 Practice Quiz #1 (Nov 6)
    - Module 6 Practice Quiz #2 (Nov 9)
    - The Institutional Presidency Forum (Nov 11)
    - Respond to the Institutional Presidency Forum (Nov 13)
    - Module 6 News Story Assignment & Peer Review (Nov 15 & Nov 16)
    - Module 6 Unit Test (Nov 16)
- **Week 07: Film Presentation Week (11/19-11/23)**
    - Film Presentation #1
    - Film Analysis Paper #1 (Nov 30)
- **Week 08: Relationship of the Presidency to Other Players (11/26-12/14)**
    - Module 8 Practice Quiz #1 (Nov 30)
    - Film Presentation #2 (Dec 6)
    - Module 8 Practice Quiz #2 (Dec 7)
    - The Presidency and The Media Forum (Dec 9)
    - Respond to The Presidency and The Media Forum (Dec 11)
    - Module 8 News Story Assignment & Peer Review (Dec 13 & Dec 14)
    - Module 8 Unit Test (Dec 14)
    - Film Analysis Paper #2 (Dec 14)

# Grading Policies

## Graded Course Activities

| Description | Points |
|---|---|
| Syllabus Quiz | 10 |
| Practice Quiz | 120 |
| Unit Test (for 6 Modules) | 180 |
| Discussion (for 7 Modules) | 70 |
| Assignments (5 News Story & 1 Campaign Ads Analysis) | 60 |
| 2 Film Analysis Papers | 60 |
| **Total Points Possible** | **500** |

**Note**: students are quired to complete all work in order to receive a passing grade.

## Participation

Students are expected to participate in all online activities as listed on the course calendar. I will track and score your participation in discussion (including responding to others) and peer review for the news story assignment by using Canvas tracking tool as well as manually tracking your work. Please make sure to read rubrics for each required work.

## Complete Assignments

**All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed.** Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances. The instructor reserves the right to determine whether or not extensions will be given.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

## Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. Of course, I will need to see an official evidence to verify the seriousness of your situation before allowing you to submit or complete the work late.

## Viewing Grades in Canvas

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the Grades section of the Canvas course. Look at your recent feedback on the home page or click on the Grades link to view your points.

Your instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete - typically 3-4 days following the completion of an activity. You will receive a notification from Canvas when new grades are posted depending on your notification settings.

## Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the total points earned and are assigned as follows:

| Letter Grade | Percentage |
|:---:|:---:|
| A | 466-500 |

| A- | 450-465 |
|----|---------|
| B+ | 440-449 |
| B | 415-439 |
| B- | 400-414 |
| C+ | 390-399 |
| C | 365-389 |
| C- | 350-364 |
| D+ | 340-349 |
| D | 315-339 |
| F | Below 314 |

# Course Policies

## Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:
- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Post Reply" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Adapted from:

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Mintu-Wimsatt, A., Kernek, C., & Lozada, H. R. (2010). *Netiquette: Make it part of your syllabus*.
Journal of Online Learning and Teaching, 6(1). Retrieved from
http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/mintu-wimsatt_0310.htm

Shea, V. (1994). Netiquette. Albion.com. Retrieved from:
http://www.albion.com/netiquette/book/.

## Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

## Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP Academic Calendar for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

## Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if students with serious illness or family emergencies are unable to complete 30% or more of the required work. The documents of proof will be required to submit before requesting a petition for an incomplete grade. Your instructor reserves the right to determine if students have incomplete grade. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within 2 months after the final day of class.

## Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at datctr@uwsp.edumailto:datctr@uwsp.edu

**Statement of Policy**
UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities.  The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom.  Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted.  The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

*If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.*

# Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

# UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

**Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures**
UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles
The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system.  The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty.  Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors.  Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.
UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.
(1)  Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
    (a)  Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
    (b)  Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
    (c)  Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
    (d)  Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
    (e)  Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
    (f)  Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2)  Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

## Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.