



Ecampus SAMPLE SYLLABUS

NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course Canvas site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

Course Name: Presidential Politics

Course Number: PS 312

Credits: 4

Instructor name: Dan Andersen

Instructor email: andersed@onid.orst.edu

Course Description

This class covers the U.S. presidency, both historically and in contemporary politics. Topics include the changing role of the president in the U.S. system, presidential power, relationships between the president and other branches of government.

This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

Communication

There will be a Discussion Board 'General Forum' that is the best way to ask all course related questions. Email is also a useful way to contact the instructor. Emails will be generally answered within a day or two.

Technical Assistance

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the [OSU Computer Helpdesk](#) online.

Learning Resources

Richard Ellis, 2012, *The Development of the American Presidency*

Michael Nelson, ed., 2009, *The Presidency and the Political System*

Stephen Skowronek, 1997, *The Politics Presidents Make*

Additional readings and materials will be available on the course website in Canvas

Note to prospective students: Please check with the OSU Bookstore for up-to-date information for the term you enroll (<http://osubeaverstore.com/Academics> or 800-595-0357). If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.

Canvas

This course will be delivered via Canvas where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the course Canvas site you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the [Ecampus Course Demo](#). For technical assistance, please visit [Ecampus Technical Help](#).

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and Describe significant patterns and developments in the history of the U.S. Presidency
- Apply conceptual frameworks for understanding presidential power and action
- Compare and Contrast different styles of presidential leadership in different historical contexts
- Identify key institutions and Describe various relationships between the President and other governmental institutions
- Evaluate and Rate presidents according to thoughtful criteria

Evaluation of Student Performance

- Module Quizzes – 5% each for the first 3 units, 15% total
- Discussion Boards - 4 original posts and 4 response posts (1 per Module): 5% each, 20% total
- Midterm Essay (due at the end of the Module 2, details to follow): 15% total
- A final exam (due at the beginning of finals week): 20% total
- A research paper w/ peer editing (details to follow): 5% for completing the rough draft, 5% for the peer editing, 20% for the final paper, 30% total

Course Content

Module	Weeks	Topic	Reading Assignments	Learning Activities
1	1-3	The Constitutional Foundation of the Presidency, Presidential History, the Development of the Modern President	Ellis, chapter 1; Skowronkek chapters 1-7; Federalist Papers 67-77, Antifederalist 67-71; Selections from Milkis and Nelson (on Canvas); Nelson, Chapter 1	Discussion Board #1 Quiz #1
2	4-6	The Modern Presidency, Presidents and Presidential Action, Powers and Constraints, Elections,	Nelson, Chapter 6-9, 11, 16-17; Rockman and Waterman “Two Normative Models of Presidential Leadership”	Discussion Board #2 Quiz #2 Midterm Essay

This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:
 Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu Tel: 800-667-1465

			(on Canvas); Marshall, "Eleven Reasons..." (On Canvas), Skowronek, Chapter 8 and Afterword, Miroff, "Domestic Policymaking: Politics and History" (on Canvas); Ellis Chapter 2-3; Edwards, "Impediments to Presidential Leadership" (on Cavas)	
3	7-9	The President and other parts of the government	Ellis, Chapters 4-9; Nelson, Chapters 10, 12-15, 18; Maltzman, "The Politicized Judiciary..." (On Canvas);	Discussion Board #3 Quiz #3 Paper Rough Drafts
4	10	Evaluating, Judging, Comparing Presidents	Ellis, Chapter 10	Discussion Board #4 Peer Reviews
	Finals Week		None	Final Exam Final Paper

Course Policies

Makeup Exams

Makeup exams will be given only for missed exams excused in advance by the instructor. Excused absences will not be given for airline reservations, routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches), or other common ailments. Excused absences will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances.

Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility.

Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. In all you say and do for this course, be professional. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to the attention of your instructor.

Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this online course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings and view other instructional materials for each week before participating in the discussion board.
- Read your posts carefully before submitting them.
- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.
- Challenging the ideas held by others is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses carefully, and recognize that others are expected to challenge your ideas. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and [Disability Access Services \(DAS\)](#). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Accessibility of Course Materials

All materials used in this course are accessible. If you require accommodations please contact [Disability Access Services \(DAS\)](#).

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a [vendor statement](#) certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

Expectations for Student Conduct

Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the [Office of Student Conduct: Information and Regulations](#).

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit [Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#), or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:

a) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.

b) It includes:

(i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

(ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

(iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

(iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

(v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.

Conduct in this Online Classroom

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the [university's regulations regarding civility](#).

Tutoring

[NetTutor](#) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching

Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to "Student Online Services" to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.