

POLITICAL SCIENCE 334

THE PRESIDENCY

Professor: Michael A. Genovese
Office Hours: Tu & Th: 11-12; Wed: 9-11
Units: 3

Term: Fall, 2006
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Course Introduction: For better or worse, the presidency has become the center of the American political universe. In many respects, we have become a "presidential nation". But the presidency has entered the new millennium battered and bruised. As an institution it faces severe challenges. The crisis of 9-11 notwithstanding, the presidency is an institution that is both troubled and troubling.

This course examines the invention of the presidency, the rise and fall of presidential power, the historical roots and development of the office, the selection process, presidential personality and character, the policy making environment, and relations between the president and Congress, the Courts, the bureaucracy, the media, and the people. We will conclude the semester with a discussion of the dilemma of governing in a separation-of-powers system, and look at the reform agenda.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, the student should have a comprehensive understanding of both the institution of the presidency, and of the presidents who have occupied the office. The student will also have a more developed set of critical thinking skills.

Course Expectations: I expect you to come to class on time, do not be disruptive of the class, read the assigned readings *before* class, turn off all cell phones prior to entering the classroom, and not whine. It would be helpful, but not required, that you laugh at my jokes...

Academic Policies: You are to adhere to the rules and regulations of the university relating to academic honesty. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Should you miss a class you are still responsible for all required assignments and materials. Late papers/assignments will be accepted but there is a 5 point per week (or portion of week) penalty for late assignments. Students with special needs must discuss this with me during the first two weeks of the class so that appropriate accommodations can be made. This syllabus is subject to change at the whim of the professor.

The Genovese Guarantee: I guarantee that if you do your part, you will come away from this course having had the finest course in the American Presidency available anywhere in the world...that may sound arrogant, it may be arrogant, but I mean it! At no other university in the world, will you get a better exposure to the problems and possibilities of the Presidency than during this semester, in this class, at this university.

Required Texts:

- 1) Thomas E. Cronin and Michael A. Genovese: **THE PARADOXES OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY**
- 2) Louis Fisher: **PRESIDENTIAL WAR POWER**
- 3) William Lammers & Michael A. Genovese: **THE PRESIDENCY AND DOMESTIC POLICY**
- 4) Michael A. Genovese: **THE POWER OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY, 1789-2000**
- 5) Lori Cox-Han: **GOVERNING FROM CENTER STAGE**
- 6) Michael A. Genovese: **THE PRESIDENTIAL DILEMMA**
- 7) Robert J. Spitzer and Michael A. Genovese: **THE PRESIDENCY AND THE CONSTITUTION**
- 8) James Risen: **STATE OF WAR**

Course Requirements:

- 1) Memo to the President (5 pages) – see attached* 33%
- 2) Research Paper (8 pages) – see attached* 33%
- 4) Final Examination (essay) 33%

* Do not put papers/memo in a plastic folder (-5 points if you do)

Grade Determination: A = 95-100; A- = 90-94; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82;
C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D = 65-69; F = below 65.

COURSE OUTLINE

- August 29-31 Introduction: "The Crisis of the Contemporary Presidency"
Read: Cronin and Genovese: Ch 1

Thursday 31st, American Political Science Association Meeting
- September 5-7 The Imperial Presidency on Steroids vs The Rule of Law

Read: Dilemma, Chs 1-2
- Sept 12-14 The Roots and Growth of the Presidency
Read: Genovese - "The Power of..." All
- Sept 19-21 Presidential Power and Leadership
Read: Cronin and Genovese: Ch 4-5,
- Sept 26-28 Presidential Selection
Read: Cronin and Genovese: Ch 2
Spitzer/Genovese – ch 4
Tape: The Electoral College/Campaign Commercials
- October 3-5 The Public and the Media
Read: Cronin and Genovese: Ch 3, + Cox-Han - all

Tape: Television and the Presidency
- Oct 10-12 Presidential Personality and Character
Read: Handouts
- Oct 17-19 Presidents and Policy Making
Read: Lammers/Genovese **Memo to the President, due Oct 19**

Fisher – all

Spitzer/Genovese –chs 8-11
- Oct 26 Presidents and the Courts
Read: Cronin and Genovese: Ch 8
Spitzer/Genovese: chs 1-2, conclusion
- Oct 31- Nov 2 President and the Congress
Read: Cronin and Genovese Ch 6,

Dilemma, ch 3

Spitzer/Genovese – chs 3 and 7

- Nov 7-9 The Presidency as an Institution
 Read: Cronin and Genovese: Ch 9-10
 Spitzer/Genovese – chs 5-6
- Nov 14-16 Crisis Management

 Read: Handouts

 Tape: Hurricane Katrina
- Nov 21 The Presidency in Comparative Perspective
 Research Project due: November 21
- Nov 28-30 Can Presidents Lead/Govern? George Bush and the Crisis Presidency in
Freefall
 Read: Cronin and Genovese: Ch 7
 Risen - All
- December 5-7 The Presidency: Is it broke? Should we fix it? How?
 Read: Cronin and Genovese: Ch 11 + Dilemma, ch 4

Final Examination