PS 213: The Presidency

Dr. James C. Rhoads                    Fall 2017
Patterson Hall 303                   Patterson Hall 110
Office Hrs: MWF 12:50-1:50 and by appt. ONLY   TR 11:00-12:30
jrhoads@westminster.edu

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of the American presidency. This term, the central focus will be an examination of the presidency in times of crisis. In addition to an overview of the role of the presidency in our political system, we will investigate the actions of modern presidents as they face crises, both domestic and international.

Course Requirements: The class will be conducted in both a lecture and discussion format. Students will be expected to participate fully in class discussions. Throughout the course students are required to keep abreast of their reading assignments. This course has a significant AUDIO/VISUAL component. Please show appropriate courtesy during the film and documentary viewings especially (i.e., cell phones OFF, no talking, etc.) During the course of the term three exams will be given. These exams will cover material from the assigned readings as well as from class lectures.


Grading:
Grades will be determined on the basis of this scale:

- 3 Exams @ 100 points each 300
- Attendance and Participation 20
- TOTAL POINTS 320

Letter grades will be based on this scale:

- A 93-100%  C 73-76%
- A- 90-92%  C- 70-72%
- B+ 87-89%  D+ 67-69%
- B 83-86%  D 63-66%
- B- 80-82%  D- 60-62%
- C+ 77-79%  F Below 60%

Student Learning Objectives: By the end of the term, students will be able to explain:
1. The Constitutional powers of the Presidency
2. The extra-constitutional powers of the Presidency
3. The historical development of the office of the President
4. The role of presidential rhetoric in pursuing presidential goals
5. The relationship between the President and Congress
6. The relationship between the President and the media
7. Crisis strategies used by various presidents as they apply to:
   a. The Cuban Missile Crisis
   b. The Kennedy Assassination
   c. The Vietnam Conflict
   d. Watergate
   e. The Iran-Hostage Crisis
   f. The Iran-Contra Scandal
   g. The End of the Cold War
   h. The Clinton Impeachment
   i. The 9/11 Attacks
8. The strengths and limitations of these crisis strategies

Make-up Policy: "Absence from an announced examination results in a failing grade for the examination, unless suitable arrangements are made for a special examination. A student who seeks such a privilege should petition the instructor in writing PRIOR to the scheduled examination date. If the instructor considers that the petition should be granted, then a note to the effect is added and the petition is presented to the Dean of the College. The examination may be given only if the Dean also approves the petition. (Undergraduate Catalog, 2017-18, p.65)

Tentative Schedule of Classes:
August 29-31: Introduction/The President & The Public
Pika, et al., Chapter 1

September 5-7: JFK in Crisis: Berlin & Cuba

September 12-14: Election Politics,
Pika, et al., Chapter 2
LBJ in Crisis: JFK Assassination

September 19-21: Public Politics
Pika, et al., Chapter 3
LBJ in Crisis: Vietnam

September 26-28: Presidential Character and Performance
Pika, et al., Chapter 4
Nixon in Crisis: Watergate
October 3-5:  *Nixon in Crisis: Watergate*

October 10-12:  **FIRST EXAM**  
Legislative Politics  
Pika, et al., Chapter 5

October 17-19:  Executive Politics,  
Pika, et al., Chapter 6  
*Carter in Crisis: Iran Hostage*

October 24-26:  Judicial Politics,  
Pika, et al., Chapter 7  
*Carter in Crisis: Iran Hostage*

October 31-November 2:  **SECOND EXAM**  
*Reagan in Crisis: Iran-Contra*

November 7-9:  The Politics of Domestic Policy  
Pika, et al., Chapter 8  
*Reagan in Crisis: Iran-Contra*

November 14-16:  The Politics of Economic Policy  
Pika, et al., Chapter 9  
*Bush 41 in Crisis: Gulf War/End of Cold War*

November 21:  The Politics of National Security Policy  
*Bush 41 in Crisis: Gulf War/End of Cold War*

November 28-30:  The Politics of National Security Policy  
Pika, et al., Chapter 10  
*Clinton in Crisis: Impeachment*

December 5-7:  The Challenges and Opportunities of a New President  
Pika, et al., Chapter 11  
*Bush 43 in Crisis: 9/11*

December 11  **FINAL EXAM: 3:00pm**