

Class meetings T/Th 9:30-10:45 AM in ADM 218
 Instructor Michael Bitzer
 E-mail jmbitzer@catawba.edu
 Homepage faculty.catawba.edu/jmbitzer/index.html
 Office location 202 Hedrick Administration Building
 Office hours M & W: 9-11 AM, 2-3 PM; and by appointment
 Office phone 704.637.4117

Course Description:

“An analysis of the role of the Presidency in the American political system and its relationships with the other branches of government. Prerequisite: POLSC 1100 or 1101.” (Catawba Catalog)

This course serves as an introduction to the powers and concepts related to the presidency in American democracy. The course has three goals: to introduce the role and structure of the executive branch; to introduce different scholarly perceptions and views on the power of the presidency; and to analyze the different levels and impact of the chief executive within the federal government. This course will also be based on a seminar approach as well, designed to encourage student participation and understanding to the various topics that will be covered throughout the semester. The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Grading Policy:

All work is graded on a 0-100 scale. There is no “curve” for this course; the following will constitute your final grade:

Mid-term exam.....	25%
Participation.....	15%
Semester Paper	30%
Final Exam.....	30%

To calculate your final grade, multiply each grade by the appropriate percentage and then add the total to arrive at your course average. There are no “extra credit” projects given.

The grading scale is:

	A = 93 +	A- = 90-92.9
B+ = 87-89.9	B = 83-86.9	B- = 80-82.9
C+ = 77-79.9	C = 73-76.9	C- = 70-72.9
D+ = 67-69.9	D = 63-66.9	D- = 60-62.9
F = 0-59		

The grading criteria for the papers and exam essays includes the following:

- Is there an introduction that states a primary thesis/ argument to the essay?
- Does the essay completely answer the question?
- Does the essay provide sufficient examples for the thesis?
- Is the writing clear and well organized?
- Does the essay summarize the argument?

Exams:

Each exam will be based on course lectures, discussions and assigned readings. The exam format will rely heavily on essay questions. Please note the dates of the mid-term and final exams on the schedule. Make-up exams are only given under the most dire of

circumstances, and only with documented record (i.e., Health Center form).

A note on the approach of this collegiate class. The textbooks will give students an **overview of knowledge** that the professor may then discuss further in lecture and discussion. While the material covered in the textbooks will not be necessarily covered in complete detail in class, it is expected that students will have read the material prior to coming to class for that week. **Simply because the material is not covered in class does not excuse the student from responsibility for the material on exams.**

Textbooks:

The following books have been ordered for the course: *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making* by George C. Edwards III and Stephen J. Wayne; *The Politics of Shared Power*, by Louis Fisher; and *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton* by Stephen Skowronek.

In addition, various journal articles and news accounts may be assigned for specific topics. Any additional material will be placed either on reserve with the Main Library or on my web homepage and will be announced in class. You will be responsible for such material on the exams.

All readings should be completed before class.

A note on the readings: Active readers take notes, underline important and mystifying passages, make marginal comments, take time to think about what they have read, and come to class prepared to give their interpretations, share their thoughts, and answer questions. In addition to presenting material in lecture form, I will be asking for feedback and discussion on the readings. If you find yourself having difficulty understanding the material, please set an appointment with me and I will be happy to review the information with you.

Participation:

As scholars of political science, you should be willing to offer your insight and arguments on various topics; likewise, you should be prepared to have your arguments challenged by your colleagues. We are all here to expand our educational foundation; *the right to present your argument is just as important as the right to acknowledge countervailing arguments.*

Classroom participation includes both attendance and interaction during classroom discussion. If the instructor believes that students are not coming prepared for class, unannounced pop quizzes will be given and counted into the participation grade.

Classroom participation includes both attendance and interaction during classroom discussion. **Attendance for all class meetings is mandatory**; if the instructor is in class, then students are expected to be in class. Missed classes will result in 3 points off the attendance component of your final grade. Unless documentation is provided by the College Health Center, the Dean of Students or Dean of the College, absences will not be excused. As stated in the Catawba College Catalog (pg. 79), more than 10 absences in this class (1/4 of the class meetings) will result in a grade of F for the course.

Assignments are due in the class period as noted on the schedule. Late assignments turned in within 24 hours after the class meeting they were due will have ten points deducted from the final grade. Assignments due on a Friday and that are not handed in in class will be due by 4 PM on Friday with ten points deducted from the final grade; otherwise, the assignment will be a zero. No work will be accepted after the 24 hour late

period; the grade will be recorded as a zero. *Predicted questions are due at the beginning of the first class for that assignment; no predicted questions will be accepted as late.*

Academic Honesty:

All work on all assignments must be your own. Students are expected to be familiar with College guidelines for honest academic conduct, and will be held responsible with appropriate penalties.

Grade Appeals:

If you have a question about the grading of a work, I ask that you come in with a written explanation as to the specific area that you have a concern. This requires that you re-read back through your work, write your concern on paper, and then research as to why it should be included in your grade. Only then should you come to me and we can talk about your work. I am always available to discuss problems or difficulties, but I do not go for the “well, I had this and you didn’t count it” logic.

Semester Paper on Presidential Politics and Leadership:

For the semester paper, students will write a chapter for the Skowronek book that covers the second term of Clinton and the first two years of Bush (43). You should plan to write the paper using the approach of Skowronek, and focusing on the leadership approach that both men took in their terms of office. You should develop a strong thesis statement in comparing the two presidents, and find sufficient examples and ideas that support your thesis.

The paper will be: 12-15 pages, typed; double-spaced; 10/12 point Times; normal margins (1" around); and stapled in the upper left corner. Please have a cover sheet with a title to your paper and your Social Security number on it (NO FANCY COVERS or plastic binders—I will take points off for this) and don’t count the cover sheet as part of the required pages. On all the other pages, have only your Social Security number along with page numbers. For citations, you may use the parenthetical approach (Author’s last name, page number), and remember to include a bibliography.

Schedule:

The following is tentative, with changes announced in class:

I: Theoretical Foundations

Week 1: An Overview of the Presidency

- Federalist Papers: #10 & 67
- Anti-Federalist Papers: #67
- Skowronek, Ch. 1
- Handout, Ragsdale piece
- Edwards and Wayne, Ch. 1

II: The Constitution and the Presidency

Week 2: The Framers' and the Federalist's Perception of the Chief Executive

- Federalist Papers: #69 & 70
- Anti-Federalist Papers: #69 & 70
- Skowronek, Ch. 2

Week 3: The Chief Executive's Constitutional Powers

- The Constitution, Article II, Amendments # 12, 20, 22, 25
- Skowronek, Ch. 3
- Fisher, Ch. 1

III: The Chief Executive in the American Political System

Week 4: The Chief Executive's Office

- Federalist Papers: #71 & 72
- Edwards and Wayne, Ch. 6
- Skowronek, Ch. 4

Weeks 5-6: The President and Congress

- Federalist Papers: #73
- Anti-Federalist Papers: #73
- Edwards and Wayne, Ch. 10
- Fisher, Chs. 2 & 3

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week 6: The President and the Courts

- Edwards and Wayne, Ch. 11
- Skowronek, Ch. 5

Week 7: The President and the Bureaucracy

- Federalist Papers: #76 & 77
- Anti-Federalist Papers: #76 & 77
- Edwards and Wayne, Chs. 6 & 9
- Fisher, Chs. 4 & 5

DRAFT #1 OF PAPER DUE

Week 8: SPRING BREAK

IV: The Chief Executive and the American Public

Week 9: The President and Public Opinion

- Edwards and Wayne, Ch. 4
- Skowronek, Ch. 6

Week 10: The President and the Media

- Edwards and Wayne, Ch. 5
- Skowronek, Ch. 7

Week 11: Getting Elected--Parties and Interest Groups

- Federalist Papers: #68
- Anti-Federalist Papers: #68
- Edwards and Wayne, Chs. 2 & 3

DRAFT # 2 OF PAPER DUE

V: The President and Public Policy

Week 12: Presidential Decision-Making

- Edwards and Wayne, Chs. 7 & 8

Week 13: Domestic Policy Making

- Edwards and Wayne, Chs. 12 & 13
- Fisher, Ch. 7
- Wildasky, "The Two Presidencies" (article)

Week 14: Foreign and Defense Policy Making

- Federalist Papers: #74 & 75
- Anti-Federalist Papers: #74
- Edwards and Wayne, Ch. 14
- Fisher, Ch. 6
- Fleischer et al., "The Demise of the Two Presidencies" (article)

FINAL DRAFT OF PAPER DUE

VI: Conclusion

Week 15: Defining the Presidency and Presidential Leadership

- Fisher, Epilogue
- Skowronek, Ch. 8

FINAL EXAM

WEEK:	DATE:	Assignment	Edwards	Skowronek	Fisher	Fed./ Anti-Fed
	15-Jan					
	16-Jan		1-10			Fed. 10 & 67
	17-Jan					
	18-Jan					
	19-Jan		11-21			
1	20-Jan	<i>MLK DAY--NO CLASSES</i>		1-17		AF 67
	21-Jan	Discussion: Ragsdale				
	22-Jan					
	23-Jan	Discussion Skowronek Ch. 1		17-32		Fed. & AF 69
	24-Jan					
	25-Jan					
	26-Jan					Fed. & AF 70
2	27-Jan					
	28-Jan					
	29-Jan					
	30-Jan	Discussion Skowronek Ch. 2			3-22	
	31-Jan					
	1-Feb					
	2-Feb			33-46		
3	3-Feb			46-58		
	4-Feb					
	5-Feb					
	6-Feb	Discussion Skowronek Ch. 3	184-194			
	7-Feb		194-214			
	8-Feb			59-85		
	9-Feb			86-107		Fed. 72
4	10-Feb			108-128		
	11-Feb					
	12-Feb				23-51	
	13-Feb	Discussion Skowronek Ch. 4	323-241			
	14-Feb		341-365			
	15-Feb					
	16-Feb				51-67	Fed. 73
5	17-Feb					AF 73
	18-Feb				68-83	
	19-Feb				83-105	
	20-Feb	Mid-term given out		129-155		
	21-Feb			155-177		
	22-Feb					
	23-Feb					
6	24-Feb					
	25-Feb	Mid-term due	369-381			Fed. 76-77
	26-Feb		381-396			AF 76-77
	27-Feb	Discussion Skowronek Ch. 5				
	28-Feb					
	1-Mar					
	2-Mar		106-129			
7	3-Mar		129-145			
	4-Mar		146-177			

	5-Mar				
	6-Mar	Draft # 1 of Paper Due			
	7-Mar				
8	8-Mar	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>			
	16-Mar	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	95-108		
9	17-Mar		120-138		
	18-Mar			197-228	
	19-Mar			228-260	
	20-Mar	Discussion Skowronek Ch. 6	144-159		
	21-Mar		159-178		
	22-Mar				
	23-Mar			287-325	
10	24-Mar			325-350	
	25-Mar			350-375	
	26-Mar			375-407	
	27-Mar	Discussion Skowronek Ch. 7	22-51		
	28-Mar				
	29-Mar				
	30-Mar		54-71		Fed. 68
11	31-Mar		71-91	409-429	AF 68
	1-Apr			429-447	
	2-Apr				
	3-Apr	Discussion Skowronek Ch. 8	218-236		
	4-Apr		236-246		
	5-Apr		250-267		
	6-Apr		267-278		
12	7-Apr				
	8-Apr		400-414		
	9-Apr		414-430		
	10-Apr	Draft #2 of Paper Due	"2 Presidencies"		
	11-Apr				
	12-Apr				
	13-Apr		433-453		218-236
13	14-Apr		453-470		236-252
	15-Apr		"Demise"		
	16-Apr			473-488	
	17-Apr	Discussion: "2 Presidencies"		488-499	
	18-Apr	<i>EASTER BREAK</i>			
	20-Apr	<i>EASTER BREAK</i>			Fed. 74-75
14	21-Apr				177-191 AF 74
	22-Apr	Discussion: "Demise"			191-218
	23-Apr				
	24-Apr	Final Paper due			
	25-Apr				
	26-Apr				
	27-Apr				252-256
15	28-Apr				
	29-Apr				
	30-Apr				
	1-May	<i>STUDY DAY</i>			
	3-May	EXAM DUE by 12:30 PM			