"THE EXECUTIVE POWER SHALL BE VESTED IN A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

- United States Constitution, Article 2, Section 1

That's it. One sentence. The entire Executive Branch is entrusted to one person. There is no mention of specific agencies or detailed procedures. In fact, 52% of Article 2 deals with the election or removal of the President, much of which has been amended over the centuries.

During the First American Republic (1774-1789), the fourteen Presidents of the Continental Congress served as Head of State and even presided over its deliberations, but the Congress itself performed as a plural executive that managed the national government through committees.

When the Founding Fathers met in Philadelphia in 1787 to amend the Articles of Confederation, they all agreed that the Executive needed more "energy" in order to effectively administer the national government; but, they remained extremely hesitant to grant the President too much power lest their hard-fought victory over King George III produced a tyrant closer to home.

The simple fact is that the Founders could not agree on the details pertaining to this new and unique creation. Since they had all been legislators, crafting the specificity of Article 1—The Legislature—had been relatively easy. History, however, offered few guideposts for the type of Executive they envisioned. Only days before the Convention ended, they increased the President's power in the hope that the office would not be dominated by the Senate.

What the Founders produced was barely an outline. The Constitution enumerates only five major presidential powers: 1) He is Commander-in-Chief of the Army & Navy; 2) he has the power to grant Pardons; 3) he negotiates Treaties (with the Senate's concurrence); 4) he appoints most high government officials (often with the Senate's confirmation); and, 5) he can Veto legislation (as specified in Article 1).

The office of the President we know today is the creation of the 43 men who have occupied it. It has been shaped by history, tradition, court rulings and custom far beyond the Founders' wildest imagination. In a nuclear age, the President of the United States is now the most powerful person on the planet. In a very real sense, he can do anything he desires unless Congress, the Courts or ultimately the People force him to desist.
REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

THE POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY... by Pika & Maltese

THE CENTER HOLDS... by Jonathan Alter

THE PRESIDENTS CLUB... by Gibbs & Duffy

COURSE ORIENTATION

This course will consist of five major components in addition to class lectures:

- Weekly Quizzes on THE POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY
- Weekly Analyses on THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
- Four Reports on THE CENTER HOLDS
- A Brief Paper on a defeated Presidential Candidate
- Three TESTS

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Regular class attendance and careful preparation for each class are required. Students must read the assigned chapters prior to each class. As an “incentive,” most Monday classes will begin with a 5 minute Quiz based exclusively on that day’s reading assignment and most Wednesday classes will require the submission of a weekly analysis.

Since teachers are “academic coaches,” students are expected to show up for class just as athletes are expected to show up for practice. Students must perform the assignments outlined in this syllabus and submit the required reports ON TIME. Ten points will be deducted from assignments that are late. After one week, the assignment will not be accepted and the grade for that assignment will be zero.

If absent, a Student is still responsible for everything covered during that class. GET THE NOTES from one of your fellow students.

Small STUDY GROUPS are strongly encouraged. No “extra credit” work will be offered. Students should concentrate on doing their best on the assignments outlined in this syllabus.

Students must demonstrate respect for the teacher and their fellow classmates during class. Disturbances of any kind (for example: private conversations, cell phones, TEXT MESSAGING, etc.) will NOT be permitted. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, it will be recorded as an absence.

Laptop computers are only permitted for taking notes. Any other use will result in that student’s computer being banned for the remainder of the semester.
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If a student requires any type of SNAP accommodations, please make the appropriate notifications and arrangements with the Center for Students with Disabilities during the first week of classes. Alternatively, if a student has a physical impairment of any kind that will require special arrangements for exams or papers...or, if a student must travel due to membership in any approved athletic, club or organizational program...please notify the teacher during the first week of classes. This information will be kept confidential.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The regular Office Hour for this class will be Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 pm at the Starbucks Coffee Shop across from Maybank Hall. Students may also request a meeting at another time or place by calling my cell phone (843-822-3254) or sending me a Text Message.

Since I only use my personal email—zebracove@aol.com—do NOT use my college account.

Questions, comments or concerns pertaining to this course may also be placed via my cell phone (843-822-3254) between the hours of 10 am to Midnight, seven days a week. Calls placed before 10 am will result in a grade of “X” and the student should leave the state immediately.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Personal integrity is extremely important in college as it is throughout life.

When you enrolled in The College of Charleston, you signed an Honor Code. You are expected to live up to that code.

If you cheat on an exam or plagiarize any portion of your reports or assignments, you will FAIL this course and your case will be turned over to the Honor Board for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions or are unsure what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, ASK. Ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

• DAILY QUIZZES...20%

Monday classes will begin with a 5 minute Daily Quiz which will focus exclusively on that day’s reading assignment. It will be given at the start of the class and will consist of 10 objective questions worth 10 points each. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz grade will be eliminated and the remaining quiz grades will be averaged. That average will represent 20% of the student’s final grade.

If a student is absent from class or arrives after the quiz period has ended, the quiz grade for that class will be zero. There will be NO make-up quizzes.
• TESTS...30%

There will be three Tests throughout the semester. Each Test will be comprehensive (i.e., it will cover EVERYTHING read, reviewed or discussed during this period of the course) and will consist of 25 objective questions (2 points each) and 5 essay questions (10 points each) plus a 5 point bonus question. Each Test will be one hour in length, followed by a review of the Test.

Each Test will cover only the material contained in the current phase of the course. Each Test will represent 10% of the final grade for this course. If a student is absent from class on Test day, that Test must be made up by appointment at the earliest opportunity and a 10 point penalty will be applied to that Test unless prior approval has been granted for an approved absence.

• THE PRESIDENTS CLUB Analysis...20%

Each student will be required to read THE PRESIDENTS CLUB, the first detailed account of the unique relationships among the Presidents of the United States and the impact they exercise on future administrations. This reading assignment is broken down into specific chapters on a week-by-week basis. Each student will then prepare a 1-2 full page(s) double-spaced typed analysis of each chapter (What do YOU think of the information presented?). This Analysis, including a cover sheet, will be due at the start of most Wednesday classes. Ten points will be subtracted from that paper’s grade if it is late.

At the end of the semester, the grades for this assignment will be averaged and that number will represent 20% of the student’s final grade.

• BRIEF PAPER ON A DEFEATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE...10%

Having studied the Presidents of both the First and Second American Republics for most of my life, it is my opinion that often the wrong person wins. Unfortunately, most defeated candidates—whether or not they might have made better Presidents—fade into history and are quickly forgotten. Even giants like Henry Clay and Charles Evans Hughes are almost completely unknown today.

Each student will be required to research one defeated presidential candidate (as assigned) and to prepare a 4-5 page paper on that individual. The student should provide the following information:

• A brief biographical sketch of the defeated presidential candidate’s life;

• A brief explanation of why that candidate lost that presidential election;

• A brief analysis of whether or not the “right man” won that election, in YOUR opinion.

This Paper is due at the start of class on Monday, November 25. Ten points will be subtracted if it is late. This Report will represent 10% of each student’s final grade.
• THE CENTER HOLDS Analysis... 20%

In this, his second book on the Obama presidency, Jonathan Alter describes the 2012 presidential election as a “hinge of history.”

Your assignment is to read Alter’s book and then prepare a 3-4 page analysis of the information contained (What do YOU think?) in EACH of the four assignments. Do NOT summarize the book. The goal of this assignment is for YOU to evaluate the information and then clearly express YOUR informed opinion. Include a cover sheet for each or the four reports.

At the end of the semester, your grade on the four reports will be averaged and that number will represent 20% of your final grade for this course.

GRADES

Grades in this class are based on a straight scale:

- A = 93-100
- A- = 90-92
- B+ = 88-89
- B = 83-87
- B- = 80-82
- C+ = 78-79
- C = 73-77
- C- = 70-72
- D+ = 68-69
- D = 63-67
- D- = 60-62
- F = 59 and below

POLI 325: THE PRESIDENCY

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1) Demonstrate knowledge of the history and organization of the Executive Branch of the US Government;
2) Evaluate recent presidential election processes and outcomes;
3) Analyze and critically assess at least one significant aspect of the US Chief Executive; and,
4) Articulate and defend – both written and orally – critical arguments about the organization of the US presidency.
COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Wednesday, August 21
- Sample Quiz
- Introduction to the Course
- The first 14 Presidents before Washington
  (The First American Republic 1774-1789)

Week 2

Monday, August 26
- Daily Quiz
- POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY:
  Preface & Chapter 1: The Changing Presidency
- United States Constitution, Article 2

Wednesday, August 28
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Introduction, pp. 1-14

Week 3

Monday, Sept. 2
- Daily Quiz
- POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY
  Chapter 2: Election Politics

Wednesday, Sept. 4
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Truman & Hoover
  Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 15-53

Week 4

Monday, Sept. 9
- Daily Quiz
- POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY
  Chapter 3: Public Politics
- Assignment Due: THE CENTER HOLDS
  Part 1: Chapters 1-6 (pp. 1-82)

Wednesday, Sept. 11
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Eisenhower & Truman
  Chapters 3 & 4, pp. 55-100

Week 5

Monday, Sept. 16
- TEST 1
- Review Test
Wednesday, Sept. 18
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Kennedy & His Club
  Chapters 5, 6 & 7, pp. 101-158

Week 6

Monday, Sept. 23
- Daily Quiz
- POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY
  Chapter 4: Character & Performance

Wednesday, Sept. 25
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Johnson & Eisenhower
  Chapters 8 & 9, pp. 159-189

Week 7

Monday, Sept. 30
- Daily Quiz
- POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY
  Chapter 5: Legislative Politics

Wednesday, October 2
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Nixon & Reagan
  Chapters 10, pp. 191-219

Week 8

Monday, October 7
- Daily Quiz
- POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY
  Chapter 6: Executive Politics
- Assignment Due: THE CENTER HOLDS
  Part 2: Chapters 7-13 (pp. 83-175)

Wednesday, October 9
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Johnson & Nixon
  Chapters 11 & 12, pp. 221-257

Week 9

Monday, October 14
- Fall Break (Mid-Term Grades Due)

Wednesday, October 16
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Nixon & Johnson
  Chapter 13, pp. 259-290
Week 10

Monday, October 21  
• Daily Quiz  
• POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY  
  Chapter 7: Judicial Politics

Wednesday, October 23  
• Class Discussion & Analysis  
• THE PRESIDENTS CLUB  
  Nixon & Ford  
  Ford & Reagan  
  Chapters 14 & 15, pp. 291-336

Week 11

Monday, October 28  
• TEST 2  
• Review Test

Wednesday, October 30  
• Class Discussion & Analysis  
• THE PRESIDENTS CLUB  
  Nixon, Ford & Carter  
  Reagan & Nixon  
  Chapters 16 & 17, pp. 337-371

Week 12

Monday, Nov. 4  
• Daily Quiz  
• POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY  
  Chapter 8: Politics of Domestic Policy  
• Assignment Due: THE CENTER HOLDS  
  Part 3: Chapters 14-21 (pp. 176-281)

Wednesday, Nov. 6  
• Class Discussion & Analysis  
• THE PRESIDENTS CLUB  
  Bush & Nixon  
  Bush & Carter  
  Chapters 18 & 19, pp. 373-408

Week 13

Monday, Nov. 11  
• Daily Quiz  
• POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY  
  Chapter 9: Politics of Economic Policy

Wednesday, Nov. 13  
• Class Discussion & Analysis  
• THE PRESIDENTS CLUB  
  Six Presidents: The Golden Age of the Club  
  Chapters 20, 21 & 22, pp. 409-456
Week 14

Monday, Nov. 18
- Daily Quiz
- POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY
  Chapter 10: Politics of National Security Policy

Wednesday, Nov. 20
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Bush & Clinton
  Bush & Bush
  Chapters 23, 24 & 25, pp. 457-503

Week 15

Monday, Nov. 25
- Daily Quiz
- POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY
  Chapter 11: Challenges & Performance
- Assignment Due: Paper on Defeated Candidate

Wednesday, Nov. 27
- THANKSGIVING DAY BREAK

Week 16

Monday, December 2
- Class Discussion & Analysis
- THE PRESIDENTS CLUB
  Obama & His Club
  Chapter 26 & Conclusion, pp. 506-530

Tuesday, December 3
- Reading Day

Monday, December 9
  NOON
- FINAL EXAM (TEST 3)
- Review Test
- Assignment Due: THE CENTER HOLDS
  Part 4: Chapters 22-Afterword (pp. 282-379)
Recommended Language for Course Syllabi

College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration—working together without permission—is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php
THE FIRST AMERICAN REPUBLIC: 1774–1789

President Peyton Randolph of Virginia...Sept.–Oct. 1774 & May 1775
Philadelphia

President Henry Middleton of South Carolina...Oct. 1774
Philadelphia

President John Hancock of Massachusetts...May 1775–Oct. 1777
Philadelphia, Baltimore, Lancaster, PA & York, PA

President Henry Laurens of South Carolina...Nov. 1777–Dec. 1778
York, PA & Philadelphia

President John Jay of New York...Dec. 1778–Sept. 1779
Philadelphia

President Samuel Huntington of Connecticut...Sept. 1779–July 1781
Philadelphia

President Thomas McKean of Delaware & Pennsylvania...July 1781–Nov. 1781
Philadelphia

President John Hanson of Maryland...Nov. 1781–Nov. 1782
Philadelphia

President Elias Boudinot of New Jersey...Nov. 1782–Nov. 1783
Philadelphia & Princeton, NJ

President Thomas Mifflin of Pennsylvania...Nov. 1783–June 1784
Annapolis, MD

President Richard Henry Lee of Virginia...Nov. 1784–Nov. 1785
Trenton, NJ & New York City

President Nathaniel Gorham of Massachusetts...June 1786–Nov. 1786
New York City

President Arthur St. Clair of Pennsylvania...Feb. 1787–Nov. 1787
New York City

President Cyrus Griffin of Virginia...Jan. 1788–March 1789
New York City

Secretary Charles Thomson of Pennsylvania...Sept. 1774–March 1789
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