

Professor Young  
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## **Political Science 116 (Sec. 10): American Presidency**

Tues, Thurs., 8:00-9:15, 307 Fungler Hall  
Spring 2004, George Washington University

While intensely studied, the U.S. Presidency remains our least understood national political institution. Because the media and researchers tend to focus on specific presidents, generalizations about presidents and the presidency remain limited. In this course we will be focusing our attention on the office of the presidency. This is not a course on individual presidents and their presidencies. We will not be trading favorite anecdotes about what this or that president was like or did. We will seek to understand, in a systematic fashion, the factors that influence presidential behavior and the contexts under which presidents operate.

### **Textbooks**

Edwards and Wayne, *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*, 6th ed.  
Milakis and Nelson, *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-1998*, 3d ed.  
Nelson, *The Presidency and the Presidential System*, 7th ed.  
Mayhew, *Divided We Govern*.

### **Grading**

Your course grade will be based on the simulation and two exams as follows:

First Exam: 35%

Second Exam: 35%

Paper: 30% .

### **Exams**

The course will have two in-class exams. Each test will be composed of questions on materials covered in the classroom and the texts. The format is a combination of short answer and essay. Exam dates are listed below.

### **Simulation Exercise (PrezGame)**

Your project for the semester will be to engage in a role-playing exercise known as PrezGame. *Attendance at PrezGame sessions is mandatory.* The simulation will include a project “gamebook” that is due on April 20. Details on PrezGame will be discussed early in the semester.

### **Academic Integrity**

All examinations, papers, and other graded work products and assignments are to be completed in conformance with The George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity.

## Lecture & Reading Schedule

Discussion of syllabus	Jan. 13
Introduction Read: Edwards & Wayne, Appendix A; Nelson, ch. 1 (Nelson)	Jan. 15
Origins and Constitutional Interpretations Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 1, Appendix C; Milkis & Nelson, chs. 1-2; Nelson, ch. 4 (Tulis)	Jan. 20
Development of the Presidency/Context of History Read: Milkis & Nelson, chs. 3-14; Nelson, ch. 5 (Skowronek)	Jan. 22
Electing the President Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 2, 3; Nelson, chs. 8 (Pious), 9 (Aldrich & Griffin)	Jan. 27, 29
The Public Presidency Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 4; Nelson, ch. 11 (Miroff)	Feb. 3, 5, 10
Presidents and the Media Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 5; Nelson, ch. 12 (Jacobs)	Feb. 12, 17
The Personal President Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 8; Nelson, chs. 6 (Quirk), 7 (Nelson)	Feb. 19
Organizing the Office Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 6; Nelson, ch. 15 (Burke)	Feb. 24
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Feb. 26</b>
Presidents and Congress Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 10; Nelson, ch. 17 (Dickinson)	Mar. 2
PrezGame	Mar. 4
Presidents and Congress Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 10; Nelson, ch. 17 (Dickinson)	Mar. 9
PrezGame	Mar. 11
Spring Break	Mar. 16, 18
Investigating the President Read: Mayhew, chs. 1,2	Mar. 23
PrezGame	Mar. 25
Investigating the President Read: Mayhew, chs. 1,2	Mar. 30
PrezGame	Apr. 1
Divided We Govern? Read: Mayhew, remainder	Apr. 6
PrezGame	Apr. 8
Presidents and the Executive Branch Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 9; Nelson, ch. 16 (Moe)	Apr. 13, 15
<b>PrezGame books due</b>	<b>Apr. 20</b>
Presidents and the Judiciary	Apr. 20, 22

Read: Edwards & Wayne, ch. 11; Nelson, ch. 18 (Yalof)	
<b>Second Exam</b>	<b>Apr. 27</b>