

Political Science 3500 – The President and Congress

Instructor: Dr. David Briley

Time: Monday and Wednesday 1:40 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

Place: Room # 327 Rogers-Stout

Office/Office Hours: 305 Rogers-Stout 12:30-1:25 MW, 3:30-5:00 MW, or by appointment.

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PURPOSE: Political Science 3500 examines the Presidency and the Congress and how these institutions impact public policy. Topics that will be discussed include the following:

Congress as an institution,

Congressional decision-making,

The relationship between the Presidency, Congress, and external groups in the political environment such as constituents, interest groups, and the bureaucracy,

History of the Presidency,

The Presidency as an institution, and

The nature of presidential and congressional influence over public policy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Classes will be lecture-oriented but will involve a certain amount of input from the students. On these occasions, the discussion will be encouraged. There is a fair amount of reading required in this course. You need to have read the material before class. We will be covering a lot of content. Several videos on the Presidency and Congress will be shown when time allows. We will be spending about forty percent of the time on Congress and sixty percent on the Presidency. There will be two exams that account for 60% of the final grade. There will also be two short essays/quizzes worth 20% approximately halfway through the presidency and congress material. Both papers and the first exam will be done out of class. The final exam will be on the date scheduled during finals week. An exam or essay cannot be made up unless you notify me before the time of the exam or essay. The essays will be turned in during class on the assigned date. There will be a paper due in the last class before your final exam. These will cover one of the presidents from Franklin Roosevelt to Donald Trump in one of their “crises.” This assignment will be worth 20% of the final grade. The paper will be typewritten, 10-12 pages double-spaced, with any appropriate bibliographic citations noted. At least ten sources are required for the paper. You will submit a rough draft a month before the semester is over; I will mark it up and give you feedback on the draft. I will provide more specific instructions on the paper the week after the fall break.

ETSU Additional Links: <https://www.etsu.edu/curriculum-innovation/syllabusattachment.php>

GRADING SCHEME: 94-100=A 90-93=A-
87-89=B+ 83-86=B 80-82=B-
77-79=C+ 73-76=C 70-72=C-
67-69=D+ 60-66=D 0-59=F

REQUIRED READING:

- 1) Davidson, Roger H., Walter J. Oleszak, Frances E. Lee, and Eric Schickler. CONGRESS AND ITS MEMBERS; Congressional Quarterly (Washington D.C.) 17th Edition, 2020.
- 2) Greenstein, Fred I. THE PRESIDENTIAL DIFFERENCE. Princeton University Press (Princeton, New Jersey), 3rd Edition, 2009.
- 3) Gibbs, Nancy and Duffy, Michael. THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB. Simon and Schuster: (New York), 2012.
- 4) I will add a few chapters/articles from other sources during the semester. These will be on D2L

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Weeks Number:

- 1) Introduction and overview of the course, Chapter 1-Davidson and others (D)
- 2) Chapters 2-4 in (D)
- 3) Chapters 5-7 in D; Essay #1
- 4) Chapters 8-10 in D
- 5) Chapters 11-14 in D
- 6) Chapter 16; Review of congressional material and upcoming test. Test #1
- 7) Overview of Presidency; Chapter 1 from Neustadt and FDR from Greenstein
- 8) Truman from Greenstein; 2 and 3 from Gibbs/Duffy
- 9) IKE and JFK from Greenstein; 6 and 7 from Gibbs/Duffy
- 10) LBJ from Greenstein; 8 and 9 from Gibbs/Duffy, Essay #2
- 11) RN and Ford from Greenstein; 10 from Gibby/Duffy
- 12) Carter and Reagan from Greenstein; 16 and 17 from Gibbs/Duffy
- 13) Bush 41 and Clinton from Greenstein; 18, 19, 21, 22, and 23 from Gibbs/Duffy
- 14) Bush 43 and Obama from Greenstein; 24 and 26 from Gibbs/Duffy; Obama Legacy article and article on 2020 election.
- 15) Final during exam schedule

