PO 31701 American Presidency Number of Credits 3  
Summer 2013

Instructor: Marie D. Natoli  
Office: Woods College of Advancing Studies  
Telephone: 781 239-1065

Schedule (class times & day(s)): M/W 6:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.  
Room: Campion 300

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a worldview that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
Course examines the contemporary American presidency. It considers the views, actions and performance of major presidents, the impact of electoral politics in the approaching elections, the relationship with Congress, the courts, the media, public opinion and the executive bureaucracy. Emphasis is on the styles of presidential leadership and the changing dimensions of the political party in America, as well as changes in the role of the President and Vice-President in the post 9/11 era.

May 13-June 19, M W, 6:15-9:15 p.m., 3 credits
Visiting Professor Marie Natoli, Ph.D.,JD, MBA

Course Objectives
1. The student will be able to discuss the many dimensions of the U. S. Presidency as it works within the context of the broader political system.
2. The student will be able to understand the many paradoxes in the U. S. Presidency in balancing often conflicting roles.
3. The student will be better able to understand contemporary political events at the national level of government.
4. The student will demonstrate substantive knowledge as appropriate for the course and will learn the impact of this material across cultural settings as well as the impact of demographics of race, gender and age as demonstrated by aspects of the U. S. Presidency.
5. The student will demonstrate ethical dilemmas in problem solving pertaining to U. S. politics as demonstrated by aspects of the U. S. Presidency.

Grading
Midterm Exam: 40 points
Class Participation 20 points
And Attendance:
Final Exam: 40 points
Summer Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their summer grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Text(s)/Readings (Required)
Barber, James David. The Presidential Character
Hirschfield, Robert S. The Power of the Presidency: Concepts and Controversy
Klein, Joe. Politics Lost
Natoli, Marie D. American Prince, American Pauper: The Contemporary Vice President and Presidential Relations 2d.revised edition (2009)*
   (*DO NOT purchase the first edition online; this is a revised edition.)
Neustadt, Richard. Presidential Power and The Modern President

You are also responsible for any reason readings as well as for daily readings of the New York Times and the Boston Globe.

Text(s)/Readings (Recommended)
Read selections from presidential memoirs as your time permits.

Important Policies: Please review http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructor’s decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.
Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly. Exams MUST be taken as scheduled. NO make-up exams will be permitted and no course grades of “Incomplete” will be given.

Course Assignments (readings, exercises and/or experiences)
Students are expected to complete the following out of class course assignments:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Exercises/Experiences</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week (with Date)</td>
<td>General Topic (in class)</td>
<td>Reading Assignment/Other Assignment (out of class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Introduction to Course: overview of syllabus and readings</td>
<td>Klein, Politics Lost Federalist Papers: (online)</td>
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<td>The Overall Political Environment in Which a President Must Work</td>
<td>Federalist 10 Federalist 48</td>
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<td>Week</td>
<td>Reading/Assignment</td>
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| May 15     | ➢ Nominations and Campaigns:  
- traditional criteria for nominating candidates  
- the presidential primary system  
- role of the convention  
- evolving criteria for vice presidential selection |
|            | Natoli. *American Prince, American Pauper*, Chapters as appropriate.  
Go to the website for the American Museum of the Moving Image:  
View tv campaign ads beginning with the 1952 presidential campaign and continuing through the present |
|            | (Begin readings for June 3, 5)                                                       |
| May 20, 22 | ➢ Concepts of the Presidency  
In Hirschfield, read commentaries by:  
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Harry S. Truman  
Dwight D. Eisenhower  
John F. Kennedy  
Lyndon Baines Johnson  
Richard M. Nixon  
Gerald R. Ford  
Jimmy Carter  
Also read (online):  
Inaugural addresses of:  
Franklin D. Roosevelt (first address)  
John F. Kennedy  
Richard M. Nixon  
Ronald Reagan  
George H. W. Bush  
Bill Clinton  
George W. Bush  
Barack Obama |
| May 27     | ➢ HOLIDAY – no class  
➢ MIDTERM EXAM |
| May 29     | Essay format. Through materials above!  
Begin next readings  
*Presidential Rhetoric* (on your own – You Tube) |
| June 3     | ➢ Presidential Rhetoric and Public Images of the President and Presidency |
Readings/Assignments:

First read and then listen to each of the following: (you can find both the text and the audio online)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, “First Inaugural Address”
- Dwight D. Eisenhower, “Farewell Address”
- John F. Kennedy, “Inaugural Address”
- Jimmy Carter, “Energy Crisis” speech
- Ronald Reagan, “First Inaugural Address”
- Ronald Reagan, “Star Wars” speech
- George W. Bush, “March to Baghdad” speech
- Barack Obama, both 2009 and 2013 “Inaugural Address” and press conferences
- Barack Obama, Newtown Memorial speech

Republican and Democrat Conventions – keynote address; speeches by nominees

Think about these in terms of 1) the disparity, if any, between the written word and the spoken word; 2) the audience the President was trying to reach; 3) the major themes of the speech; 4) the effectiveness of the speech.

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<tr>
<th>June 5</th>
<th>➢ Presidential Character</th>
<th>Read James David Barber, The Presidential Character (in its entirety)</th>
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| June 10 | ➢ Presidential Jobs: Conflicting Roles?  
➢ Crisis and the Presidency | Richard E. Neustadt, in its entirety |
<p>| June 12 | ➢ Cabinet, WH Staff, VP | Natoli – remaining chapters |</p>
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<th>Succession to the Presidency</th>
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<td>June 17</td>
<td>Flexible, just in case we run over in other topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Final Exam: Comprehensive</td>
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