Introduction
This course examines the Office of the President of the United States. Three major themes will organize our study of the American presidency: The historical development of the presidency, particularly the development of the modern presidency; the decision-making challenges and responsibilities of the presidency; and the unique leadership responsibilities and expectations befalling incumbents of the Office. Our study of the American presidency will not only be descriptive, but analytical as well. That is, although we will increase our knowledge about this important institution in American government, we will also attempt to discover reliable ways to evaluate it and the individuals who have taken the oath to "faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States."

Reading for the Course
(Belmont: Wadsworth, 2008).
E. Drachman and A. Shank, Presidents and Foreign Policy:
Countdown to Ten Controversial Decisions.
R. Ellis and M. Nelson (editors), Debating the Presidency: Conflicting
Perspectives on the American Executive.
It is strongly recommended that students also read newspaper and newsmagazine articles on the American presidency.

Course Requirements
The course requirements include the following:
1. Exams. There are two exams in this course--a midterm and final. Each exam will last approximately one hour. These exams will include a mixture of identification, short answer, and essay questions. The date of each exam is specified in the course schedule. Students missing any exam without a prior excuse will not be permitted to make up the exam.
2. Research Paper. Each student must submit an 8-10 page research paper on the topic of presidential leadership. Students are free to select any American president as the focus of their research. The research should examine the leadership qualities (or absence thereof) of any American president. Accordingly, the paper should explore the historical circumstances where leadership was expected of a particular president; the issues encountered and the decision(s) made by the president; and an evaluation (strengths and/or weaknesses) of the president's response, or, in other words, the effectiveness of presidential leadership. Remember the paper is meant to examine presidential leadership. Consequently, some criteria for evaluating presidential leadership should be explicitly stated and applied to your selected case. The paper should have proper citations and bibliography with no fewer than five (5) references. The paper is due Tuesday, November 25th.
3. Case or Debate Presentation. Each student will choose one of two options for a presentation to the class. Each option is described below:
Option #1: Debate Presentation. Students selecting this option will select a debate topic in Ellis and Nelson (book) which is part of the required reading on the course syllabus. The student will join a panel of at least one other student to a maximum of four and present oral arguments on one side or the other on the debate topic. The debate will consist of initial affirmative and negative arguments; rebuttal, and summation. Students are encouraged to undertake research beyond the Ellis and Nelson selection for a more informed position on the issue. The total time allocated for each student presentation is ten to fifteen minutes. The debate presentation will occur when the reading on the debate topic is due.
Option #2: Case Presentation. Students selecting this option will select one of the ten cases in the Drachman and Shank text (Presidents and Foreign Policy) to report on in class. This means that two to four students will orally report on each case by: (1) summarizing the facts of the case; (2) identifying the major issues and decision options in the case; (3) discussing the decision and its consequences; (4) evaluating the decision (pros and cons); and (5) selecting and responding to three discussion questions
(at the end of each case) per student. Each student is free to choose his or her own questions from the case without duplicating questions selected by other students on the panel.

4. Attendance. Attendance is mandatory and participation in class discussion is strongly encouraged. Roll will be taken at each class meeting. After three unexcused absences, five points will be deducted from the student's cumulative score for each unexcused absence. Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD.

5. Grading. The following weights will be assigned to these requirements to obtain a course grade:
Exams. . . . . . . 100 points each for a total of 200 points.
Research Paper. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 100 points.
Presentation. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 50 points.
Total. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 350 points.

6. Grade Distribution. The following grade distribution will govern the assignment of letter grades:
90 - 100% = A
80 - 89% = B
70 - 79% = C
60 - 69% = D
< 60% = F

Course Schedule

Date Topic Readings

Aug 26-28 Introduction and Overview

Sept 2-4 Origins and Powers Pfiffner, Ch. 1. E & N, #1.
Sept 9-18 The President & Pfiffner, Ch. 2. the Public E & N, #2, #3, #5.
Sept 23-25 The White House Pfiffner, Ch. 3. Staff & Organization
Sept 30-Oct7 The Presidency & Pfiffner, Ch. 4,5. the Executive Branch E & N, #10.

Oct 9 Midterm Exam

Oct 14-21 The President & Pfiffner, Ch. 6. Congress E & N, #6.

Oct 30-Nov 13 Presidents and Drachman and Shank Foreign Policy Cases Text.

Nov 18-20 The President & Economic Management

*Research Paper Due*

Dec 2-4 Presidential E & N, #11, #12. Leadership

Dec 8 (Monday) Final Exam: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm