

Spring 1998

The American Executive Syllabus

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Recommended Citation

Samson, Steven Alan, "The American Executive Syllabus" (1998). *Faculty Publications and Presentations*. 386.

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THE AMERICAN EXECUTIVE

POLS 3325

Spring 1998

Dr. Samson

Hardy 10

Office: MWF 8-9, 10-11, 12-1; TR 9:30-11, 12-1

Phone: 939-4551

DESCRIPTION

A study of the development of the power, the influence, and the limitations of the chief executive, including the President of the United States, state governors, and other executives in the American System.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for assigned readings and should keep a looseleaf notebook of class materials.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Reading assignments should be completed before the class meets. Be prepared to discuss textbook material, readings, and current events. Each student will lead discussion of specific assigned readings.
3. Regular attendance is required.
4. Students will be tested on the lecture, reading, and discussion material through three short answer and essay exams. (30% apiece)
5. Each student will make an oral presentation (10-20 minutes) on a topic related to the presidency. Presentations will be scheduled between April 17 and May 1, and must be accompanied by a 5-7 page brief, typed and double-spaced. (10%)
6. Students are encouraged to visit one of the presidential libraries as a source of ideas and research materials. The Johnson Library is located on the University of Texas campus in Austin and the Bush Library is at Texas A & M in College Station.

READING LIST

Textbooks

Edwards, George C., and Stephen J. Wayne. Presidential Leadership, 4th [E]
 Hamilton, Jay, Madison. The Federalist. [H]
 MacDonald, Forrest. The American Presidency. [M]

Reserve Desk

Barber, James. The Presidential Character, 4th ed. [P]
 Boorstin, Daniel. America and the Image of Europe [B]
 Bryce, James. The American Commonwealth, vol. 1 [C]
 Nelson, Michael, ed. The Presidency and the Political System [N]

Rossiter, Clinton. The American Presidency. [R]

SCHEDULE

FIRST WEEK: DELIMITING THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY (January 26-30)

M. 1-3; E. 1; N. 1 [Nelson]

SECOND WEEK: HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE (February 2-6)

M. 4-6

THIRD WEEK: IMAGINING THE PRESIDENCY (February 9-13)

M. 7-8; H. 67-77

FOURTH WEEK: INVENTING THE PRESIDENCY (February 16-20)

M. 9-10; N. 6 [Skowronek]

FIRST EXAM: February 25

FIFTH WEEK: IMPLEMENTING THE PRESIDENCY (February 23-27)

M. 11-12; N. 4 [Tulis]

SIXTH WEEK: NOMINATION AND ELECTION (March 2-6)

E. 2-3; N. 9 [Aldrich and Weko]; C. 8

SEVENTH WEEK: SPRING BREAK (March 9-13)

EIGHTH WEEK: THE MEDIATED PRESIDENCY (March 16-20)

E. 4; M. 15; B. 5; N. 10 [Miroff]; Boorstin, America, ch. 5

NINTH WEEK: THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE (March 23-27)

E. 5-6; M. 11

SECOND EXAM: April 1

TENTH WEEK: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESIDENCY (March 30-April 3)

E. 8; N. 7 [Nelson]; P. 1

ELEVENTH WEEK: ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONS (April 6-10)

E. 9; M. 12

TWELFTH WEEK: CONGRESSIONAL AND JUDICIAL RELATIONS (April 13-17)

E. 10-11; M. 13

THIRTEENTH WEEK: DOMESTIC POLICY (April 20-24)

E. 12-13

FOURTEENTH WEEK: FOREIGN POLICY (April 27-May 1)

E. 14; M. 14, 16

FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 4, 1:00 PM

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Boorstin, Daniel J. America and the Image of Europe: Reflections on American Thought. New York: Meridian, 1960. [esp. ch. 5] 917.3 B725a
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- Cronin, Thomas E., ed. Inventing the American Presidency. Topeka: University Press of Kansas, 1989. 353.03 I62c
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- Grover, William F. The President as Prisoner: A Structural Critique of the Carter and Reagan Years. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1989. 353.03 G883p
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