I. COURSE MEETINGS
Mon & Wed: 2:00-3:15 p.m. (Leutze Hall 110)

II. OFFICE HOURS
Mon & Wed, 3:30-5:00 p.m. or By Appointment (seoj@uncw.edu)

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION
The aim of this course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how the presidency and Congress cooperate and compete with each other in the American democracy. While academic tradition has followed constitutional framework by teaching Congress and the presidency separately, a new consensus is also emerging on the demand to integrate our understanding of how legislative and executive branches interact. In studying the American presidency and US Congress, the course will place emphases on diverse perspectives; constitutional, historical, institutional, and strategic. Other topics will include separation and delegation of powers; electoral connections; policy-making processes over foreign, economic, and domestic issues; and legislative-executive interaction in the era of polarization. This is a demanding course, with a substantial amount of reading. It is imperative that you read all assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned.

IV. COURSE READING

- Two books are required and available in the university book store.

- All other readings (#) will be available through SeaPort course website (http://seaport.uncw.edu)
V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Midterm Exam (Oct 12) (30 %)
- Final Exam (TBA) (30 %)
- Presidential History Report & Presentation (15 %)
- Major Legislation Report & Presentation (15 %)
- Attendance and Participation (10 %)

1) In-Class Exams

There will be one midterm and a final Exam. Format is a combination of multiple choice, identification, and short essay. All readings and lectures will be fair game on the exams (50-50!).

2) Presidential History & Major Legislation Report/Presentation

Students are expected to write a one-page, single-spaced report on a president and a major legislation of their choosing from the list and then do a 10-minute presentation of their reports in class. Choose one president and one legislation from the syllabus and inform the instructor after August 26th (W), add/drop final day. More details will be provided in class.

- Letter grades will be assigned according to the following point totals:
  - A = 92.5 or more
  - A- = 89.5-92.49
  - B+ = 87.5-89.49
  - B = 82.5-87.49
  - B- = 79.5-82.49
  - C+ = 77.5-79.49
  - C = 69.5-77.49
  - D = 59.5-69.49
  - F = less than 59.5

VI. READINGS BY CLASS SESSION

Aug 19 (W)   Course Introduction


I. The American Presidency

Aug 24 (M) - Aug 26 (W)   Approaches to Studying Presidency

- Historical, Constitutional, Psychological, and Rational-choice Approach


Aug 31 (M) - Sep 2 (W) Presidential Power


Sep 7 (M) Labor Day Holiday

Sep 9 (W) Presidential Election

- The Nomination Process and Election Strategy

  - Richard Pious, ”The Presidency and the Nominating Process,” in Nelson, 195-218

Sep 14 (M) - Sep 16 (W) Power Sources and Constraints

- Public Opinion, the Media, Interest Groups, and Political Parties

  - Sidney M. Milkis, ”The Presidency and Political Parties,” in Nelson, 341-82.
Sep 21 (M) - Sep 23 (W)  Presidency-in-the-system

- The Bureaucracy, the Courts, and the Cabinet

  Andrew Rudalevige, “The President and the Cabinet,” in Nelson, 533-56.

Sep 28 (M) - Sep 30 (W)  The President and Congress

- “Separated Institutions Sharing Powers”

  Andrew J. Polsky, “Presidency at War,” in Nelson, 557-575
  “Congress and the President” in Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Ch.9.

Oct 5 (M) - Oct 7 (W)  Fall Break and Poli-sci Day

Oct 12 (M)  Midterm Exam (The American Presidency)

II. The United States Congress

Oct 14 (W)  the American Congress: Modern Trends and Approaches

- The Broken Branch?

  “The American Congress: Modern Trends” in Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Ch.1
  # Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein. 2008. The Broken Branch: How Congress is failing America and How To Get It Back on Track (Oxford University Press), pp. 1-13
Oct 19 (M) – Oct 21 (W)  Evolution of US Congress and Theories of Lawmaking

- Constitutional Foundations, Historical Development, and Legislative Theories

  “Representation and Lawmaking in Congress: The Constitutional and Historical Context” in Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Ch.2

Oct 26 (M) – Oct 28 (W)  Electoral Connection and Members of Congress

- Getting Elected and Strategic

  “Congressional Elections and Policy Alignments” in Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Ch.3
  “Members, Goals, Resources, and Strategies” in Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Ch.4

Nov 2 (M) – Nov 4 (W)  Inside Congress: Institutions of Congress

- Committees, Rules, Parties, and Legislative Processes

  “The Standing Committees” (Ch. 6) & “Parties and Leaders” (Ch. 5) in Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen

Nov 9 (M) – Nov 11 (W)  Party Polarization

- A Myth or Real?: Causes and Consequences of Polarized Parties in US Congress

  # Keith T. Poole, “The Decline and Rise of Party Polarization in Congress during the Twentieth Century,” Extensions, Fall 2005. Carl
III. Congress, the President and Policymaking

Nov 16 (M) – Nov 18 (W) Patterns of Policymaking: Partners or Partisans?


Foreign and Economic Policymaking

“Congress and Budget Politics” in Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Ch. 12.

Nov 23 (M) & Nov 30 (M) Social and Domestic Policymaking


Nov 25 (W) Thanksgiving Holiday
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Last Class Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Final Exam (Congress and Policymaking)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>