

COURSE APPROVAL DOCUMENT
Southeast Missouri State University

Department Political Science, Philosophy, and Religion

Course No. PS331

Title of Course: The American Executive Date 9/16/15

Please check: New
 Revised

I. Catalogue Description (Credit Hours of Course):

This course is designed to study the structure and dynamics of the executive branch in the United States, both at the national and state levels. (3.0)

II. Co- or Prerequisite(s): PS103 or PS104 This course is designed to study the structure and dynamics of the executive branch in the United States, both at the national and state levels.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course (optional):

To describe and analyze the structure and dynamics of executive politics in the United States. This will include detailed examination of design and function of the executive branch, relationships between branches, the role and effectiveness of bureaucracy, and the role of the executive in policymaking.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes (Minimum of 3):

1. Students will contrast the contemporary presidency with the Framers' design.
2. Students will analyze the impact of bureaucracy on policymaking.
3. Students will locate relevant current event materials suitable to the course.

V. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):
(Note that assignment details and due-dates may be subject to change and that students should check for periodic updates)

Week 1: Introduction

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapter 1

Week 2: Elections

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapter 2

Week 3: The Public/Evaluations of Performance

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapters 3, 4

Week 4: Legislative Politics

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapter 5

Week 5: Executive and Judicial Politics

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapters 6, 7

Week 6: Domestic and Economic Policy

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapters 8, 9

Week 7: National Security Policy

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapters 10, 11

Week 8: **Exam 1**

Week 9: Bureaucracy and Policy
Readings: Gormley/Balla Chapters 1, 2

Week 10: Bosses and Clients
Readings: Gormley/Balla Chapter 3, 4

Week 11: Network Theory
Readings: Gormley/Balla Chapter 5

Week 12: Disaster Management
Readings: Gormley/Balla Chapters 6, 7

Week 13: The Job of Governor
Readings: Rosenthal Chapters 1, 2, 3

Week 14: Governors and the Policy Agenda
Readings: Rosenthal Chapters 4, 5

Week 15: Strategies and Success
Readings: Rosenthal Chapters 6, 7, 8

Week 16: **Exam 2**

Paper Presentations and **Term Papers Due**

Please Attach copy of class syllabus and schedule as an example

Signature: _____
Chair

Date _____

Signature: _____
Dean

Date _____

Dr. Jeremy Walling
Email: jwalling@semo.edu

Office: Carnahan 211L
Office Hours: MTW 10-10:50, or by appointment

Office Phone: 651-2691

I. Course Description

This course is designed to study the structure and dynamics of the executive branch in the United States, both at the national and state levels. (3.0 credit hours)

II. Pre-Requisites: PS103 or PS104

III. Purpose of the Course

To describe and analyze the structure and dynamics of executive politics in the United States. This will include detailed examination of design and function of the executive branch, relationships between branches, the role and effectiveness of bureaucracy, and the role of the executive in policymaking.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will contrast the contemporary presidency with the Framers' design.
2. Students will analyze the impact of bureaucracy on policymaking.
3. Students will locate relevant current event materials suitable to the course.

V. Expectations

1. Students are expected to attend class having completed all reading assignments.
2. Students are expected to submit all homework assignments by the stated deadline.
3. Students are expected to participate in class discussions.
4. Cell phones and other distracting electronic devices should not be used during class and students using such devices will be asked to leave.
5. The official statement about **attendance**, derived from the Undergraduate Bulletin, may be accessed at: http://www.semo.edu/bulletin/pdf/2015_bulletin.pdf
6. **Plagiarism** on papers and cheating on exams will not be tolerated. Evidence of cheating will result in a zero grade on that assignment and may be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct. The official statement about academic honesty, including plagiarism, may be accessed at: http://www.semo.edu/bulletin/pdf/2015_bulletin.pdf
7. Please see me if you have a **disability** that requires alternative arrangements or circumstances. Students may obtain official information about disabilities from Learning Assistance and Disability Support Services, located at: <http://semo.edu/ds/index.htm>
8. All students are expected to conform to the University's official statement on **civility**, located at: <http://www.semo.edu/pdf/stuconduct-code-conduct.pdf>

Questions, comments or requests regarding this course or program should be taken to your instructor. Unanswered questions or unresolved issues involving this class may be taken to Dr. Hamner Hill, Chair, Department of Political Science, Philosophy and Religion.

VI. Student Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on two exams, an analytical paper regarding executive politics, and class participation. The grades will follow the traditional percentage scale (90%=A; 80%=B; 70%=C; 60%=D; Below 60%=F).

Exams (2 @ 100) = 200 pts.
Executive Agency Paper = 75 pts.
Governor Paper = 75 pts.
Participation = 50 pts.
Total = 400 pts.

1. *Examinations*—There will be two major examinations in the course. There will not be a comprehensive exam. Make-up exams will only be given in the case of a documented illness or emergency.

2. *Executive Agency Paper*—Students will write a critical analysis of a bureaucratic agency of the US executive branch. Your paper should be 6-8 pages and will be due April 11.

3. *Governor Paper*—Students will write a critical analysis of the governorship of an American state. Your paper should be 6-8 pages and will be due May 14.

3. *Participation*—Participation is essential to overall success in the course. Students who are paralyzed by fear at the thought of talking in class would be advised to overcome it. Students who do not participate in class will not receive participation points.

VII. Required Texts

1. Gormley, William T. and Steven J. Balla. 2013. *Bureaucracy and Democracy: Accountability and Performance, 3rd Edition* (available at the bookstore)
2. Pika, Joseph A. and John A. Maltese. 2014. *The Politics of the Presidency* (available at textbook rental).
3. Rosenthal, Alan. 2013. *The Best Job in Politics: Exploring How Governors Succeed as Policy Leaders* (available at the bookstore).
4. Additional readings, which consist primarily of online journal articles, may be posted in the assignments list on the course webpage.

VIII. Course Outline (Note that assignment details and due-dates may be subject to change and that students should check for periodic updates)

Week #1: Introduction

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapter 1

Week of #2: Elections

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapter 2

Week #3: The Public/Evaluations of Performance

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapters 3, 4

Week #4: Legislative Politics

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapter 5

Week #5: Executive and Judicial Politics

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapters 6, 7

Week #6: Domestic and Economic Policy

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapters 8, 9

Week #7: National Security Policy

Readings: Pika/Maltese Chapters 10, 11

March #8: Review for First Exam / **Exam 1 & Take Home Test Due**

Week #9: Bureaucracy and Policy

Readings: Gormley/Balla Chapters 1, 2

Week #10: Bosses and Clients

Readings: Gormley/Balla Chapter 3, 4

Week #11: Network Theory/Executive Agency Papers Due (April 11)

Readings: Gormley/Balla Chapter 5

Week #12: Disaster Management

Readings: Gormley/Balla Chapters 6, 7

Week #13: The Job of Governor

Readings: Rosenthal Chapters 1, 2, 3

Week #14: Governors and the Policy Agenda

Readings: Rosenthal Chapters 4, 5

Week #15: Strategies and Success

Readings: Rosenthal Chapters 6, 7, 8

FINAL EXAM Per Published University Schedule