

HIST 5397.001
Topics In History: The American Presidents
Spring 2021, U.T., Tyler
Office: CAS 130

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M, 6:00-8:45 PM
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**Topics in History: The American Presidents
Syllabus and Calendar**

Course Description: A study of the office of U.S. President and the men who have occupied that office from George Washington to Donald Trump.

Required Textbooks:

Buckley, F. H. *The Once and Future King: The Rise of Crown Government in America*.
ISBN: 978-1-59403-719-1.

McDonald, Forest. *The American Presidency: An Intellectual History*. ISBN: 0-7006-0749-8.

Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur. *The Imperial Presidency*. ISBN: 978-0-618-42001-8.

Office Hours: 11:15-1:15 MW; 5:00-6:00 M; Other times by appointment.

Major Learning Outcomes:

- I. The student will describe the causes that prompted the creation of the American Presidency.
- II. The student will trace the course of presidential power and responsibility.
- III. The student will contrast the various presidents that have occupied the office.
- IV. The student will be able to identify important political leaders, military and social figures in each the periods.
- V. The student will be able to analyze and explain presidential power and the impact of events on the office.
- VI. The student will explain the diplomatic problems faced by the presidents.
- VII. The student will explain potential for greatness or the risk of tyranny inherent in the U.S. Presidency.

Methods of Evaluation: The student is responsible for mastering the content of the course. This will be demonstrated through a series of essays and discussions. The student will write and submit twelve book reviews and one bibliographic essay over the course of the semester. The student is required to submit all of the reviews, not just "take a week off" on a book and an article. Format for the reviews will be discussed in class. Each student will submit one electronic copy of each book review through Canvas. The reviews are due at the start of class (6:00 PM prompt). The instructor will deduct points for papers handed in late during class, and letter grades for each day late following class. Nonetheless, the student is still required to submit a review even if it is a week late and will receive an "F." All reviews are required for successful completion of the course.

Book Review #1 - 7%
Book Review #2 - 7%
Book Review #3 - 7%
Book Review #4 - 7%
Book Review #5 - 7%
Book Review #6 - 7%
Book Review #7 - 7%
Book Review #8 - 7%
Book Review #9 - 7%
Book Review #10 - 7%
Book Review #11 - 7%
Book Review #12 - 7%

Bibliographic Essay - 16%

Grading Scale:

A = 90 - 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 - 69
F = 0 - 59

Methods of Instruction: Classroom discussion.

Attendance: All students are expected to attend every class meeting whether on Zoom or in person. Due to the continued COVID outbreak we will hold classes virtually until the all-clear is given and then we will discuss whether you want to meet live or not. The day's assignments are due in the instructor's in-box by the start of class (6:00 PM) whether you are in attendance (on video or in person) or not. If you cannot attend class, make sure your reviews do. Send in your electronic copy time stamped by class time. Because discussions are a vital part of graduate classes, and every week is a discussion, your absence hurts the knowledge and understanding of the entire class. As such—an absence penalty will be deducted from your submitted paper—unless the instructor deems the absence valid (i.e. university or department sponsored event; or some calamity that in my opinion justifies non-attendance).

Behavior: All students will maintain respect and courtesy for their classmates and for the instructor. Do not use pagers, cell phones, communicators, signal fires, or other disruptive communicative devices during class. Turn off such annoying hindrances to the learning process before class begins. Frequent violations of this rule will result in a lowered class participation grade and egregious violations may result in the instructor lowering the student's semester grade. No profanity, sleeping, talking that interrupts the instructor, lewd, rude, or socially unacceptable behavior (and even some socially acceptable behavior may not be allowed in class). "Free love" should not be practiced in this class—hands off others and yourself. Remember, although the United States practices democracy in the form of a representative constitutional republic, this class is a benevolent dictatorship. If student conduct becomes unacceptable, the instructor will ask the student to leave and not return.

Students Rights and Responsibilities:

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities:

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry:

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University:

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies:

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade

replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy:

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Student Accessibility and Resources:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance:

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester. Revised 09/16 Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities. If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct:

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. i. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
 - ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
 - iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
 - iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Canvas.

UT Tyler Resources for Students:

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses. UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254).

Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories:

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations. The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its Honor Code and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Recording of Class Sessions:

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

Tentative Calendar of Instruction:

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| Jan. 11 | Introduction, Syllabus Discussion | |
| Jan. 18 | MLK Holiday—No Class | |
| Jan. 25 | Book Review #1 of Forrest McDonald, <i>The American Presidency</i> Due | Census Date |
| Feb. 01 | Book Review #2 Founding Father Presidents Due | |
| Feb. 08 | Book Review #3 Antebellum Presidents Due | |
| Feb. 15 | Book Review #4 Civil War, Reconstruction and Gilded Age Presidents Due | |
| Feb. 22 | Book Review #5 of Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. <i>The Imperial Presidency</i> Due | |
| March 01 | Book Review #6 of Progressive Presidents Due | |
| March 08 | Spring Break—No Class | |
| March 15 | Book Review #7 of Twenties and Depression Presidents Due | |
| March 22 | Book Review #8 of Cold War Presidents #1 | Last Day to Withdraw |
| March 29 | Book Review #9 of Cold War Presidents #2 Due | |
| April 05 | Book Review #10 of Modern Presidents #1 Due | |
| April 12 | Book Review #11 of Modern Presidents #2 Due | |
| April 19 | Book Review #12 of F. H. Buckley. <i>The Once and Future King</i> Due | |
| April 26 | Bibliographic Essay Due | |