

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: September 12, 2011

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: February 15, 2012

Effective: Fall 2012

1. **Course Number:** GOV 110
Course Title: The American Presidency
2. **Description:** This course explores the responsibilities, staff, functions, and limitations of the modern American presidency. While the course covers the origins of the presidency, the reading and lecture material focuses on the modern American presidency in the post-1932 period. This course explores the cultural, social, and economic changes that have wrought political changes in the meaning and role of the presidency.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following.
 - Identify and describe the key changes and trends in the twentieth century political history with an emphasis on presidential developments.
 - Evaluate primary and secondary historical sources.
 - Analyze the causal factors and historical background of the United States presidency.
 - Critically discuss and argue the meaning of the president as politician, policy maker, and symbolic head of state.
 - Describe the basic research methods in the construction of political history.
 - Identify the biases that may develop and be exposed in the historical research process
 - Assess the use of evidence in the research process.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** No
6. **Prerequisite:** None
7. **Semester Offered:** Fall
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Evaluation of student's performance will include discussions, reading responses, documentary film written response, and a final exam
9. **General Topical Outline:**
 - The Constitution
 - Origins of the Modern American Presidency
 - Woodrow Wilson and WWI
 - Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal
 - World War II
 - Harry Truman and the Cold War Presidency
 - Television in American Politics
 - Lyndon Johnson, Civil Rights, and the Great Society
 - Vietnam and the Credibility Gap
 - Richard Nixon and the 1968 Election
 - Watergate, the Imperial Presidency, and the Fracturing of America
 - Ronald Reagan and American Conservatism
 - Bill Clinton and the "Third Way"
 - Contemporary Challenges to the American Presidency