

The final exam covers the following material:

- Class, April 2-May 2
- Pika and Maltese, *The Politics of the Presidency*, pages 245-481
- Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, pp. 192-208, 341-534 (Edwards; Burke; Lewis & Moe; Dickinson; Yalof; Rudalevige; Polsky; Pika)
- Wayne, *The Road to the White House 2012*, pages 334-367
- "In G.O.P. Field, Broad View of Presidential Power Prevails" and "Obama Bucks Congress (Course Documents)

NOTE: This exam includes 2 essays (see page 2 for second essay)

**Part 2: Identification:** You will define, illustrate, and explain the importance **for the presidency** of two of the following. You will be able to choose from four on the exam. Each identification item is worth 10 points. (PM=Pika & Maltese; N=Nelson; E=Wayne)

Solicitor general (PM, 318-321)

Appellate jurisdiction & Military Commission Act (PM, 323)

Task forces and study commissions (PM, 354-5)

political capital (PM, 346-8)

executive agreements (PM, 433-6)

Office of Management and Budget (PM, 395 ff)

Presidents and reorganization (PM, 284-286)

CIA and presidential appointments (PM, 436-7)

The Federal Reserve in the "economic subpresidency" (PM, 400-402)

Electoral College and preserving federalism (Edwards in N, 202-203)

The "Era of Incumbency and Insulation" (Dickinson in N, 413-17)

politicization of the institutional presidency (Burke in N, 357-358)

"Central clearance" of regulations (Rudalevige in N, 470-471)

Dick Cheney's influence on George W. Bush (Pika in N, 522-525)

Huston Plan (class)

Joseph Califano (class)

The Plumbers Unit (class)

"Saturday Night Massacre" (class)

policy "czars" (PM, 267)

The Politics of Monetary Policy (class)

"Court Packing," 1937 (class)

The debt ceiling debate, 2011 (class)

A national primary (Wayne, 340-341)

Early Exit Poll reporting (Wayne 347-348)

OIRA (Lewis and Moe in N, 389-92)

**Part 3: Essay.** You will write an essay in response to one of the following questions. The best answers will blend evidence from lectures and all the books; they will be clear, concise, and they will use specific examples. Two of these essay questions will appear on the exam. The essay is worth 40 points.

1. **Watergate.** Why was Richard Nixon so concerned about "leaks" such as the Pentagon Papers during his presidency? How did the Huston Plan and the Plumbers aim to stop these leaks? What was the Watergate break-in and why did it happen? What crimes were committed by Nixon officials? What made Watergate different from other episodes of corruption in American history? Be specific.

2. **Presidential Appointments to the Supreme Court.** Yalof (in Nelson, 444-449) argues that the process of identifying and selection candidates for the Supreme Court has undergone a dramatic transformation. What is this transformation? What are the seven factors that have transformed the political environment that shaped recruitment of candidates of the Supreme Court?

3. **Policy Streams** (Pika and Maltese, 338-45). Pika and Maltese identify three streams in the policy process. Define and give examples of each, and explain how each stream affects the president's role as policy maker.

4. **Economic Subpresidency** (Pika and Maltese, 393-402). What are the major components of the economic subpresidency, according to Pika and Maltese? Be sure to describe each component, its role, and its importance to presidential direction of economic policy. Use clear examples.

5. **Constraints on Presidential WarMaking.** Polsky (in Nelson, 498-501) argues that the domestic and international constraints on presidential warmaking have weakened in recent decades. How does Polsky make his case, carefully explaining the role of Congress (including the War Powers Resolution), the courts, public opinion, and the role of other international powers.



OVER for Course summary essay

**Part 4: Course Summary Essay.** (30 points).

Answer one of these two questions. Write an essay describing what you will say, drawing on everything you've learned in this course. You should provide a scrupulously fair assessment; do not rant, sermonize or whine. You can choose from either one on the final exam. (You do not have to provide advice to the same political party you advised in your campaign memo). Use clear examples. The more specific, the better.

Show off your cumulative knowledge. Your answer should review major themes and readings of the **entire** course. You should draw material from all of the textbooks for the course. Your grade will be based upon your demonstrated command of the course material and your ability to apply that knowledge to this problem.

For either question, some of the following information may be helpful. In 2008, Barack Obama won 365 electoral votes and 52.7 % of the popular vote. Obama won 67% of the Latino vote, up 14 points from John Kerry in 2004; Obama won 41% of white men (up 4 points from Kerry), 46% of white women (up 2 points), 66 percent of 18-29 year olds (up 12 points), 45 percent of 65+ voters (down 2 points), 52% of independents (up 3 points), 60% of moderates (up 6 points), 20% of conservatives (up five points), 54% of Catholics (up 7 points), 24% of Evangelicals (up 3 points), and 50% of suburban voters (up 3 points).

I urge you to read both questions; thinking about answers to one will help you answer the other.

**1.** You have been brought on an expert on realignments and reconstruction presidencies to advise the Obama Administration on taking full advantage of President Obama's 2008 election victory. How can the Barack Obama administration become a "reconstruction" president and realign the electorate to create a durable Democratic regime for years to come? Keep in mind the importance of framing policy priorities and messages to attract voters. Also keep in mind the nature of Obama's electoral strengths and weaknesses, as demonstrated in the exit polls and geographical distribution of the presidential vote. Address the following:

- How should the Obama campaign build and maintain the Democratic Party's coalition? How can it solidify support among independents and suburbanites?
- How should the Obama campaign balance the demands of labor, environmental, minority, business, and other groups?
- How should the Obama campaign address its record in domestic and foreign policy, and its relations with Congress? Pay particular attention to the economy and the national debt.
- How should the Obama campaign address the problem of gridlock and polarization?

For this question, among other sources, you should utilize class discussions of political time and current events, Wayne, Pika and Maltese, and Tichenor.

**2.** You have been brought on an expert on realignments and reconstruction presidencies to advise Mitt Romney and Republican Party leadership preventing the Obama Administration will try to realign the electorate to create a durable Democratic regime for years to come. What can the Republican Party do to prevent this from happening, and electing Romney president in 2012 and Republicans in the future? Keep in mind the nature of Obama's electoral strengths and weaknesses, as demonstrated in the exit polls and geographical distribution of the presidential vote (see above). Also, remember that you have to position the party to accommodate a majority of the Electoral College vote, which at the moment is precarious for Romney and perhaps for future Republican presidential nominees. Address the following:

- How should Romney and the Republican Party expand its political coalition? How can it solidify support among independents and suburbanites?
- How should Romney and the Republican Party balance the demands of religious conservatives, business, Tea Party, and other groups?
- How should Romney and the Republican Party address its record and Obama's record in domestic and foreign policy? Pay particular attention to the economy and the national debt.
- How should Romney and the Republican Party address the problem of gridlock and polarization?