

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: The American Presidency  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **5008HIST** (117833)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Matthew Hill	Y
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**Academic Level:** FHEQ5      **Credit Value:** 24      **Total Delivered Hours:** 52  
**Total Learning Hours:** 240      **Private Study:** 188

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	26
Workshop	26

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Technology	AS1	Online Class Test	40	
Report	AS2	Vietnam Report	25	
Essay	AS3	Research Essay	35	

### Aims

1. Allow you to analyse the development of the presidency from the nation's founding to the modern era
2. Critically examine theoretical perspectives on the office of the White House and apply knowledge to individual presidents
3. Utilise a range of source materials to assess presidential policymaking, with a

*particular focus on national security strategies and foreign policy.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Identify and examine how the US political infrastructure impacts the ability of the president to make domestic and foreign policy.
- 2 Critically evaluate presidential performance in relation to selected issues.
- 3 Present clear verbal and written scholarly opinions on key issues relating to the foreign policy of the modern presidency.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Online Class Test	1	2
Vietnam Report	3	
Research Essay	3	

## **Outline Syllabus**

*We will look at some of the following issues: the development of the US Presidency and constitution; Congress and the Presidency; the limits of the Presidency in the 19th Century; the rise of the modern presidency; the national security President; Cold War and the Presidency; Presidential grand strategy; the President as Crisis manager; the President as war maker; the Presidency in the post-Cold War and post 9/11 era*

## **Learning Activities**

1. Guided reading in preparation for weekly classes
2. Preparing for and delivering group presentations
3. Case study analysis of presidential policymaking
4. Discussion based lectures and seminars

## **Notes**

This course will trace the origins and development of the American presidency; focusing in particular on the post-Roosevelt era. The course will, however, start from the position that in order to understand contemporary events and the administrations of Bush and Obama it is necessary to appreciate the historical development of the executive office. Therefore initial classes will focus on the creation of the presidency, the constitutional context of the office, and the changing nature of presidential power in the 18th and 19th centuries. Once this historical grounding is provided, the course

will move on to a thematic analysis of the modern presidency and, through the utilisation of primary and secondary sources and documentary footage, explore key issues in the contemporary presidency. These will include the executive-legislative relationship, the media and the presidency, presidential elections and judging presidential performance and legacy. The first part of the course will look at the domestic president, before advancing in the second semester to consider the role of the commander in chief on the international stage. The foreign policies of Cold War presidents such as JFK, LBJ, Nixon, Carter and Reagan will be considered before focus shifts to the post-Cold War era and recent diplomatic history in the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations. Students will develop a detailed understanding of source material relating to the presidency and be able to critically analyse key issues in the modern presidency; placing policies and actions within the wider historical context of the office.