

Course Syllabus

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POLS 5320

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

Spring 2025

01/13- 05/03

Dr. Kenneth Bryant Jr.

CAS 125

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Tuesdays and Thursdays 2PM - 3:20PM

HPR Bldg Room 253

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30PM - 1:50PM

Course Introduction and Objectives

Welcome to an immersive exploration into the U.S. executive branch. This course is engineered to offer students a broad-spectrum view into the nuanced machinations of the American presidential process. From the strategic elements of campaigning and elections to the delicate intricacies of transition and governance, students will delve into each component in a structured manner.

One of the course highlights is the unique opportunity for students to devise their own presidential campaigns. You will be applying practical elements such as drafting impactful speeches, conceptualizing attention-grabbing ads, and engaging in stimulating debates - providing a hands-on perspective that extends beyond mere theory.

This curriculum also sets the stage for students to acquire in-depth understanding about key facets of the electoral process, pivotal policy issues, and the dynamic nature of presidential power, all within a practical campaign scenario.

Get ready to embark on this academically enriching journey where you not only study about American politics, but also experience the thrill of a real-life campaign. This course aims to stimulate your intellect, challenge your perspectives, and ignite your passion for the world of American political processes.

Grade

Your grade will be heavily dependent upon your participation in the course. There will be writing and creative assignments. **This course will have no quizzes or exams.**

Accommodations

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, please inform me immediately. Please email me. To request academic accommodations (for example, a note taker or extended time on exams), students must also register with the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) (<https://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices/>), located at UC 3150 (903-566-7079). It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements.

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.

Family Friendly Policy

Currently, the university does not have a formal policy on children in the classroom. The policy described here is thus, a reflection of my own beliefs and commitments to student, staff and faculty parents. All exclusively breastfeeding babies are welcome in class as often as is necessary to support the breastfeeding relationship. Because not all women can pump sufficient milk, and not all babies will take a bottle reliably, I never want students to feel like they have to choose between feeding their baby and continuing their education. You and your nursing baby are welcome in class anytime.

For older children and babies, I understand that minor illnesses and unforeseen disruptions in childcare often put parents in the position of having to choose between missing classes to stay home with a child and leaving him or her with someone you or the child does not feel comfortable with. While this is not meant to be a long-term childcare solution, occasionally bringing a child to class in order to cover gaps in care is perfectly acceptable. I ask that all students work with me to create a welcoming (and safe) environment that is respectful of all forms of diversity, including diversity in parenting status.

In all cases where babies and children come to class, I ask that you sit close to the door so that if your little one needs special attention and is disrupting learning for other students, you may step outside until their need has been met. Non-parents in the class, please reserve seats near the door for your parenting classmates. Finally, I understand that often the largest barrier to completing your coursework once you become a parent is the tiredness many parents feel in the evening once children have finally gone to sleep.

The struggles of balancing school, childcare and often another job are exhausting! I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. While I maintain the same high expectations for all student in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom!

(Cheyney, 2019)

Schedule

Refer to Canvas modules.

Required Textbook

[The Hardest Job in the World: The American Presidency](#)

(Dickerson 2020) [↗ \(https://www.amazon.com/Hardest-Job-World-American-Presidency/dp/1984854518\)](https://www.amazon.com/Hardest-Job-World-American-Presidency/dp/1984854518)

ISBN-13: 978-1984854513

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> (<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> (<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 (<http://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>

<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 (Sept. 12th) 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.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> (<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler>) and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices> (<http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>), the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

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 05/17)

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.

“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.

“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.











“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.

All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.












UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu (<mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu>)
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu (<mailto: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)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Jan 17, 2025	 Selecting Your Role in the Mock Presidential Campaign (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940104)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 20, 2025	 Final Assignment - Book Review Sign-Up	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jan 26, 2025	 (CAMPAIGN) Crafting the Presidential Announcement Letter - The Theory of the Case (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940072)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 26, 2025	 (INTEREST GROUP) Crafting a Proposal for Your Political Interest Group (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940078)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 26, 2025	 (VOTER) Voter Policy Issue Analysis and Candidate Expectations (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940087)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2025	 (CAMPAIGN) Creating and Delivering Your Campaign Speech (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940074)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2025	 (INTEREST GROUP) Representing Your Interest Group Through a Creative Product (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940080)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2025	 (VOTER) Crafting a Presentation on Your Presidential Pick (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940085)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 9, 2025	 (INTEREST GROUPS AND VOTERS) Defining a Political Party Plank (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940081)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 16, 2025	 (CAMPAIGN) Crafting and Delivering Your Presidential	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	Nomination Acceptance Speech (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940071)	
	 (VOTER) Townhall Discussion Questions Submission (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940086)	due by 11:59pm
	 (CAMPAIGN) Creating Campaign Ads (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940073)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 23, 2025	 (INTEREST GROUP) Creating Super PAC Ads for Your Interest Group (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940079)	due by 11:59pm
	 (VOTER) Comparative Analysis of Political Campaign Ads (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940084)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 6, 2025	 Class Activity - Meet the Press with Dr. Bryant - A Townhall Discussion	to do: 12:30pm
Sun Mar 9, 2025	 Your Role for the Governing Phase (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940107)	due by 11:59pm
	 (EVERYONE) Federal Budget Simulation (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940077)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 16, 2025	 Developing Critical Analysis of Political Ads (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940088)	due by 11:59pm
	 Presidential Debate Analysis (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940101)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 27, 2025	 (CHIEF OF STAFF) Understanding and Presenting the Role of the Chief of Staff (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940075)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 (EVERYONE ELSE) Cabinet Position Research Report (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940076)	due by 11:59pm
	 (PRESIDENT) Drafting and Delivering Your First State of the Union Address (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940082)	due by 11:59pm
	 (VICE PRESIDENT) Understanding and Presenting the Role of the Vice President (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940083)	due by 11:59pm
	 Domestic Policy - Notes Submission (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940089)	due by 11:59pm
	 Foreign Policy - Notes Submission (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940094)	due by 11:59pm
	 Governing - Notes Submission (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940095)	due by 11:59pm
	 Modern Conventions - Notes Submission (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940096)	due by 11:59pm
	 Modern Primary Season - Notes Submission (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940097)	due by 11:59pm
	 Political Advertising - Notes Submission (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940098)	due by 11:59pm
	 Precursor to Modern System of Presidential Nomination - Notes Submission (https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940099)	due by 11:59pm
	 Presidential Challenges - Notes Submission	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/45819/assignments/940100	
	 Presidential Elections and Transitioning - Notes Submission	due by 11:59pm
	 Rhetorical Presidency - Notes Submission	due by 11:59pm
	 The General Election - Notes Submission	due by 11:59pm
	 The Party Decides? - Notes Submission	due by 11:59pm
	 EDEN Film #1	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 29, 2025	 EDEN Film #2	due by 11:59pm
	 EDEN Film #3	due by 11:59pm
	 Final Assignment - Book Review	due by 11:59pm
Thu May 1, 2025	 Final Assignment - Book Review #2	due by 11:59pm