

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

GOVT 320

AMERICAN EXECUTIVE PROCESSES/INSTITUTIONS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The office and legal powers of government executives, especially the President, including trends in the Presidency during periods of conservative and liberal dominance.

RATIONALE

This course is an essential component of the politics and policy concentration in the Helms School of Government. It provides a comprehensive overview not only of the U.S. presidency, but also of the American tradition of executive authority. It builds on the Constitutional principles taught in GOVT 200 and GOVT 220.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word and PowerPoint

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the origins and powers of the presidency.
- B. Analyze the presidential elections.
- C. Evaluate the features of the White House staff and organization.
- D. Explain the relationship between the White House and the executive branch.
- E. Explain the relationship between the president and Congress.
- F. Analyze the presidential role in national security.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 300–400 words, contain a minimum of 1 scholarly resource in current Turabian format, and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 125–150 words.

D. Essays (2)

The student will write 2 essays for the course on topics outlined within the course. Each essay must be 800–900 words, adhere to current Turabian format, and include 3–4 scholarly sources.

E. Research Paper

Part 1

The student will analyze a provided case study on the Affordable Care Act to examine the dynamic relationship between the President and Congress. The purpose of this single profound example is to help the student develop the skills necessary to further identify for themselves and explain tensions between the Congress and President in other matters for Part 2. For Part 1 of the assignment, the student will supply a 300-word minimum case study in current Turabian format that focuses on the passage of the Affordable Care Act. The paper must include at least 2 scholarly sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

Part 2

The student will write a 2,400-word research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on 5 presidential relations with Congress identified within the instructions. The paper must include at least 6 scholarly sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

F. Reagan Presentation

The student will complete a presentation on Ronald Reagan's presidential style. The presentation must be 20–25 PowerPoint slides and include at least 3–4 scholarly sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible. All sources must be in current Turabian format.

G. Biblical Position Paper

Accountability and sinfulness: Any executive, and any government for that matter, must be held accountable to the people it represents due to man’s fallen nature. The student will write a minimum 1,500-word research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses and analyzes the structure of our Constitution, emphasizing the executive branch, which increases accountability through limitation because leaders and citizens alike are irrational due to sin. The paper will include at least 4–5 scholarly sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

H. Exams (2)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and have a 1-hour and 30-minute time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 70 pts ea)	210
Essays (2 at 75 pts ea)	150
Research Paper	
Part 1	50
Part 2	140
Reagan Presentation	120
Biblical Position Paper	110
Exams (2 at 110 pts ea)	220
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

GOVT 320

Textbooks: Kengor, *11 Principles of a Reagan Conservative* (2014).
Pfiffner, *The Modern Presidency* (2011).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Pfiffner: ch. 1 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1: Thread	10 0 *
2	Pfiffner: ch. 2 2 presentations	DB Forum 1: Replies Essay 1	70 75
3	Pfiffner: ch. 6 2 presentations	Essay 2	75
4	Pfiffner: ch. 4 1 presentation	DB Forum 2: Thread Exam 1	* 110
5	Pfiffner: ch. 5 3 presentations	DB Forum 2: Replies Research Paper: Part 1	70 50
6	Kengor: What is a Reagan Conservative? Pfiffner: ch. 3 2 presentations	DB Forum 3: Thread Reagan Presentation	* 120
7	Kengor: 11 Principles of a Reagan Conservative 2 presentations	DB Forum 3: Replies Research Paper: Part 2	70 140
8	Kengor: A New Time for Choosing Pfiffner: ch. 7 2 presentations	Biblical Position Paper Exam 2	110 110
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

*Threads will not be graded until the replies have been submitted

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.