

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
PLS 225 – THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENCY (3 CR.)**

Course Description

Describes the modern American presidency. Focuses on the presidency and many issues related to that office: the people, the powers, and the current environment in which the presidents serve. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course focuses on the modern American presidency. After a thorough evaluation of the creation and development of the presidency, the relationships of the president to other political institutions in American politics will be critically analyzed. Some of these other institutions include the executive branch and bureaucracy, Congress, the judiciary, political parties, the media, interest groups, the public, campaigns and elections, domestic policy, and foreign policy.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Ability to use English language correctly and effectively as reflected in satisfactory scores on appropriate English proficiency examination.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Analyze the creation of the presidency, as well as the changes that have occurred to the office over time.
- Evaluate the modern American presidency and its relationship to the executive branch.
- Compare and contrast the balance of power between the president and Congress.
- Scrutinize the constraints that make a president's job difficult.
- Evaluate the experiences of recent presidents.
- Analyze the president's role in domestic policy and foreign policy.

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Creation of the presidency.
- b. Development of the American presidency throughout American history.
- c. Nomination process.
- d. Presidential elections.
- e. President and the public.
- f. President and the media.
- g. The president's office.
- h. President and the executive branch.
- i. Presidential decision making.
- j. President and Congress.
- k. President and the Judiciary.
- l. Domestic policy making.
- m. Budget and economic policy making.
- n. Foreign and defense policy making.