

Political Science 10: Introduction to American Politics

Week 7

Taylor Carlson
tfeenstr@ucsd.edu

February 24, 2017

Plan for the Day

- Reading Quiz
- Go over learning outcomes
- Announcements
- Answer questions from lecture this week and/or the reading
- Discuss Howell (2015)

Reading Quiz

- Clearly write your name at the top of the quiz
- Turn your quiz over when you are finished
- Good luck!

By the end of section today, you should be able to:

- Identify the three types of power the president has and give an example of each type
- Define “unilateral powers”
- Explain the “classic contradiction” that presidents face, as identified by Neustadt and discussed in Howell (2015) and in lecture
- Discuss some of the ways in which political scientists conceptualize presidential power, such as:
 - The power to persuade
 - Unilateral powers
 - Public appeals
 - Control of the bureaucracy

Announcements

- Reminder: Office Hours are Wednesdays 9am-11am in SSB 341, or by appointment (tfeenstr@ucsd.edu).
- Thank you for your feedback!
- Midterms passed back at the end of section

Questions??

What questions do you have from lecture or from the reading this week?

Presidential Power



What are the three types of power the president has?

What are the three types of power the president has?

- 1 Expressed (Constitution)
- 2 Delegated (Congress)
- 3 Inherent (asserted by the president)

What are the three types of power the president has?

Expressed	Delegated	Inherent

Unilateral Powers

- Unilateral: “(of an action or decision) performed by or affecting only one person, group, or country involved in a particular situation, without the agreement of another or the others.”

Unilateral Powers

- Unilateral: “(of an action or decision) performed by or affecting only one person, group, or country involved in a particular situation, without the agreement of another or the others.”
- So, which of the president’s powers would be unilateral?

The Classic Contradiction

The Classic Contradiction

The public has really high expectations for the president to do lots of things, but presidents are not endowed with the formal powers to meet these expectations.

How can we think about presidential power?

How can we think about presidential power?

- Power to persuade
- Unilateral powers
- Public appeals
- Control of the bureaucracy

Questions to Ponder

- Which of these conceptualizations of power do you think are the most useful for understanding the presidency? Why? (critical thinking about week 7, but may draw on other weeks)
- What would Madison say about the inherent or implied powers of the president? Is this evidence of too much power being concentrated in one individual? Why or why not? (this connects week 1-2 with week 7)
- How would the three theories of Constitutional interpretation (plain-meaning-of-the-text theory, original-intent theory, living-Constitution theory) understand the president's use of inherent powers? (This connects week 6 with week 7)
- Where do you think the high expectations of the president come from? How are these expectations different from what the American public expects from Congress? What other challenges to presidents face in order to fulfill these expectations?