The exam will be a combination of essay, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Please bring a blue book for the exam. The exam will cover material from class lectures (see notes for Lectures 1-5 on website at http://www.fiu.edu/~chanleyv) and discussion; debate topics 1–4; Milkis and Nelson, chapters 1-7 (note: chapter 8 will be covered on the second exam) and Appendix Constitution of the United States, pp. 425-443; Cronin and Genovese, chapters 1-3; and Pious, chapter 3 on the Evolution of the Presidency from the additional readings.

The following identifies more specific information that you should review for the exam:

1. The constitutional framework for the executive: powers given to the executive, checks on the executive, other issues related to the executive that are covered in the Constitution

2. The issues considered by the authors of the Constitution in their design of the executive: What were the decisions that were made about the design of the executive (for example, should the executive be one person or a council of two or more people? how should the executive be chosen?) What were the arguments concerning these issues (for example, what are the advantages and disadvantages of a single person as executive)?

3. Change in the executive from 1789 to 1899: Which presidents are seen as having an important effect on the presidency, and how did these presidents influence the executive? What are the different types of president that scholars have identified and what are the characteristics associated with these different types of president? What factors influence how the executive changes over time? For the first exam, focus on presidents from Washington to McKinley.

4. How has the process for party nominations of presidential candidates changed over time? What are the advantages and disadvantages of different nomination procedures?

5. In the years from 1789 to the late 1800s, how did the relationship between the president and the public change? Describe and give examples of these changes.

6. For debate topics 1-4, what are the most important arguments on each side? Which arguments are most compelling and why?

Sample questions
Essay: What were the central issues that the authors of the Constitution considered in developing the executive office? For each issue, identify and discuss the most important arguments for alternative views of the executive.
Short answer: Define the term king caucus and identify an important advantage and disadvantage of the king caucus system.
Fill-in-the-blank: The first method by which presidential candidates were chosen is known as ____________________.

General guidelines for short answer and essay questions:

1. Use complete sentences in writing your answer.
2. Use examples where possible to illustrate your answer. For example, if asked to define cabinet government (as discussed by Pious), a more complete answer would include an example of a president who used cabinet government in his administration. The more complete your answer, the more evidence you know and understand the course material.
3. If you use a term such as “plebiscitary” presidency that has a meaning specific to the study of the presidency, a more complete answer will define and/or identify what that term means in the context of studying the presidency.

In short, answer questions as completely as you can. The more accurate AND complete your answer, the higher the grade you will receive.