00:00 - Good afternoon, my name is Stephanie Sweeney,
00:02 I'm Associate Director of International Admission
00:04 here at Suffolk University.
00:07 First, I want to congratulate you on your acceptance,
00:10 I work with all students
00:11 who apply from international territories,
00:15 mostly Asia, Central America, freshmen and transfers,
00:18 as well as any students who wanna start their freshman year
00:21 at our campus in Madrid.
00:22 So if you fall under that, I probably accepted you,
00:24 so you're welcome (chuckles).
00:27 But we will talk a little bit more
00:30 about all the opportunities
00:32 that you'll have here at Suffolk.
00:36 So we currently have two schools of study,
00:37 we have the College of Arts and Sciences
00:40 and the Sawyer Business School.
00:41 And some of you know exactly what you wanna study
00:43 but some of you also may not know,
00:46 and you might have a long list of ideas
00:48 and that's fine because we have over 70 majors
00:51 across both schools.
00:53 With majors across arts and humanities,
00:55 social sciences, math, natural sciences,
00:59 there's no limit to what you could learn
01:00 within the College of Arts and Sciences.
01:03 Joining us today is Professor Kulich,
01:05 she's an instructor
01:06 in the Political and Legal Studies departments,
01:09 and she's got a great class for you.
01:11 So professor Kulich, I'll let you take it away.
01:13 - Well, I'll try and live up to your buildup.
01:17 Okay, so first order of business is to press send
01:21 in the chat for those of you who have figured out a song
01:26 and an artist.
01:31 - And if you wanna repeat what the instructions are
01:33 just in case. - Yeah.
01:34 Just a song and an artist that describe
01:37 what you think about the current state of American politics.
01:41 So far only one of you is listening to music
01:45 and that is a Taylor Swift song,
01:49 Miss Americana and the Heartbreak Prince,
01:53 Childish Gambino, This is America,
01:55 you guys are keeping me young
01:56 like I know what you're listening to.
01:58 So I'm gonna start the class
02:00 and you can continue to maybe be inspired
02:05 by the rest of what's going on in the chat
02:09 and hopefully by what I have to tell you today.
02:13 So the topic today is about presidential transitions,
02:17 particularly the transition of an American president,
02:21 and the first 100 days
02:24 which is really the most critical time.
02:28 However, what a lot of people don't know
02:31 is that presidential administrative transitions
02:34 actually begin months and months
02:37 before we even have an election.
02:40 So this class has kinda three parts,
02:43 one is to tell you what transitions are,
02:46 one is to tell you why they matter
02:48 and the last is to tell you a little bit more
02:52 about this particular transition
02:55 and how it fits in the grand scheme of things.
02:58 So first of all, goals.
03:00 The primary goals of a presidential transition,
03:04 meaning transition of power
03:05 from one president to another one,
03:08 is a really complicated process.
03:11 The first thing that is challenging is staffing,
03:16 there is a people problem.
03:18 Yeah, I just saw Stephanie's chat,
03:20 so if you guys wanna interrupt me and ask a question
03:23 or if I've said something that's jargony
03:25 or that you don't understand or don't just don't agree with,
03:30 raise your hand or drop it in the chat
03:33 and I'm happy to answer
03:34 because I would much rather have a dialogue
03:37 than you listen to a soliloquy.
03:40 Back to staffing,
03:41 staffing is a people problem, right,
03:44 and it's a very big people problem
03:47 for incoming presidential administrations.
03:50 So this involves making more than 4,000 appointments,
03:55 like 4,000 different people to do 4,000 different jobs,
03:59 of which about 1,200 require...
04:07 I was just told you can't see my presentation,
04:12 can you see it now?
04:17 All right, here we go.
04:19 So 4,000 people have to be hired,
04:24 they have to be put in place and they have to be trained
04:26 which means they also have to be vetted.
04:29 Of those approximately 4,000 people
04:32 who do all the business of governance and administration
04:36 in the executive office,
04:38 1,200 of them require confirmation by the Senate.
04:43 Which means that the Senate,
04:45 which is probably the world's slowest moving organization,
04:50 has got to do hearings, understand backgrounds,
04:55 and speak with each of these candidates,
04:58 vote them out of committee
04:59 and then vote on them in the Senate floor,
05:03 so that can be a really really slow progress.
05:08 Another thing that transitions have to do
05:10 is a really big job,
05:11 which is getting up to speed on
05:14 the 100 plus federal agencies
05:17 and organize and train leadership for each of them.
05:21 So imagine...
05:22 I mean, you guys are thinking about coming to college
05:25 and figuring out how to take four different classes, right?
05:30 What's it gonna be like?
05:32 What's the equipment?
05:33 What am I gonna do?
05:34 What's gonna be expected.
05:36 We're talking about a hugely complicated process
05:41 and all of those new people
05:43 are just like freshmen coming to college.
05:46 They know their jobs and their areas
05:48 but they may not necessarily have worked
05:49 in government before or in those particular positions.
05:54 A transition also has to build out a policy platform,
05:58 meaning the ideas that the president wants
06:00 to get accomplished.
06:02 And those are typically based on the promises
06:06 that candidates make during campaigns, right,
06:09 because that's in part how we judge
06:13 whether or not a president is doing a good job.
06:16 If President Biden said he's gonna build back better,
06:21 he's gotta figure out what that exactly means.
06:24 What does building back better mean?
06:27 Well, it means legislation,
06:29 it means something we'll talk about at the very end,
06:33 a plan and a lot of spending on infrastructure development
06:37 which means a lot of money
06:39 and a lot of working with Congress.
06:41 So that is part of what building out
06:43 a policy platform means,
06:44 and that is part of the transition,
06:47 what should take priority and what can not take priority.
06:55 It involves planning executive actions,
06:57 an executive action is essentially a directive
07:01 to workers within federal agencies
07:04 that doesn't require Congress
07:07 in order to change how we do things
07:10 or how policy is implemented.
07:13 So, for instance, when President Trump came into office,
07:17 one of the first things he did
07:19 was sign a whole bunch of executive orders
07:22 that reversed executive orders made by President Obama.
07:28 And one of the first things on day one
07:31 that President Biden did when he assumed office
07:35 was to sign a whole bunch
07:36 of executive orders undoing executive orders
07:40 that were made by The Trump administration.
07:44 The transition also needs to plan
07:46 for a really critical period of time
07:49 in the life of any presidential administration.
07:53 And it's kind of a number out of a hat
07:58 but it's this honeymoon period between 100 and 200 days
08:03 when there is a new administration.
08:06 that hopefully has the goodwill of the American people
08:10 and a fresh start to get stuff done.
08:14 So lots of presidents want to hit the ground running
08:19 because they've got very little time,
08:24 in the length of their administration to get things done.
08:32 Government moves slowly
08:34 and presidents wanna move really fast,
08:36 presidents cannot legislate by themselves,
08:39 essentially they have to work with Congress
08:41 and ask pretty pretty please.
08:50 So they also have to develop a strategy
08:53 to communicate all of those things
08:55 to you guys and to the world,
08:58 here's who we are, here's what we wanna do,
09:01 here are our values, here's how we're gonna accomplish
09:04 what we said we're going to do.
09:07 So the primary primary goal is staffing
09:11 in order to execute on a policy platform.
09:17 So a transition begins well before inauguration day,
09:21 the first phase is actually pre-election
09:25 and it usually starts in earnest in spring of election year.
09:30 So around the time that we have super Tuesday
09:32 and all of those primaries,
09:34 the leading contenders begin
09:37 to develop an entirely separate organization
09:41 that is their transition staff.
09:43 They name a transition chair and they put together a team
09:48 that is going to begin essentially creating a roadmap
09:52 for what is to come
09:54 should their candidate actually win office.
09:58 That means resources, that means an overall plan,
10:03 that has to do with strategy and policy.
10:06 And, most importantly, beginning to build relationships
10:11 between who will be key members of the president's team
10:15 and key stakeholders across the board,
10:20 that includes most importantly with members of Congress,
10:23 the current administration,
10:25 and something we call GSA
10:29 or the General Services Administration.
10:31 So they need to know what they're doing,
10:33 they need to know what's going on,
10:34 and they need to start making those connections
10:38 so they know what they're doing when they get in office,
10:43 if they get in office.
10:44 The second phase of a transition
10:46 begins as soon as a winner is declared, right?
10:51 And the time between election and inauguration
10:57 is typically about 75 days,
11:00 so if you think of an early November election
11:03 and inauguration on January 20th,
11:06 that's less than three months
11:07 to get a whole bunch of stuff done.
11:11 And during that less than three month period,
11:14 about two and a half months,
the transition team has to handle
a massive influx of campaign staffers,
who are no longer campaigning to win an election,
but who have turned their attention to two things,
planning the inaugural party and staffing up government,
they have to make an organization work.
And, again, the most important part
is staffing The White House and all of the federal agencies.
They also typically do something which is to create things
calling landing or beach head teams,
that will visit each of the agencies
to figure out what's been going on.
What's the staffing like?
What are the priorities?
What are the problems?
What will the new Labor Secretary
or the new Secretary of Transportation have to face?
So there's almost a...
It's like passing a baton in a relay race.
These landing teams are investigatory
and the outgoing administration
is supposed to be cooperative
with the incoming administration.
They're also supposed to build up
the president-elect's policy and management agendas,
his schedules, how's he gonna get stuff done.
And at the same time,
they're continuing to identify talented individuals
to fill all of those 4,000 plus agencies
that are going to be necessary
and that are going to have to be in place
in order to get done what the president has promised
that he or she is going to get done.
So, right now we are in phase three
of the presidential transition,
which means that we have inaugurated President Biden.
We're on day 70-ish since he joined office,
so we're still within that 100 days,
that narrow window of time in which a president
is supposed to be doing a lot of stuff
getting a lot of stuff done.
So they primarily, and first and foremost,
need to get their team in place.
They need cabinet secretaries to have been vetted,
the Senate to confirm them
and they need to put their whole team
in place to begin to work.
Now, this transition was a little different,
there is a 2010 piece of legislation
which outlines the process for a transition
between one presidential administration and another.
And it's kind of wonky and boring
but this year it turned into the biggest game in town
that we all watched, right.
And what it involves is a determination by the leader of a relatively obscure and boring sounding federal agency called the GSA, or the General Services Administration, to declare that the transition has actually happened. And as soon as the head of the GSA makes a determination, what this does is it opens up all of the agencies to those landing teams. It releases funds and it makes the transition from one team to the other possible. This time around that became a problem, and the determination by an administrator took a really, really long time.

So the question here is whether or not this has been a normal transition, right? I outlined what sort of should happen but we all know that this was a very unusual period from election day or even before, because we as Americans were voting early for months before the actual day of election. So this transition if we compare it to other transitions has been absolutely abnormal for a bunch of different reasons. Number one, the GSA administrator did not certify Joe Biden as president-elect, so the transition activities that are unlocked by that certification were delayed. Now, does anyone wanna write in the chat why she didn't certify?

This is where the jeopardy music is playing, and if I could see you in a room I would be asking you more directly. Does anyone know? All right, I guess I'll have to tell you. Donald Trump refused to accept the results of the election and mounted legal challenges in lots of states and continued to say that he had won the election. Now, it is not unusual for races at any level, from presidential or beyond, to be challenged. As a matter of fact, many many states and localities have certain rules in place that automatically trigger things like recounts if a race is really close, this presidential race was not close. And it took a very, very long time, for the transition to happen because President Trump instructed the head of the GSA to not certify. Eventually she did, but the implications of this are fairly massive. Number one, lots of costs, lots of angst, lots of loss of trust in institutions, whether they be local boards of election or Secretaries of States.
where the Trump campaign contested election results.
And also from the standpoint of a transition,
it simply delayed it in ways that we have not seen before.
So it created a whole bunch of administrative headaches,
delays, inefficiencies,
and those things impact all of us
because the period of a presidential transition,
not only is about staffing up,
it's a point where the United States is really vulnerable,
it is a huge national security risk, right.
And it's a point at which foreign actors or domestic actors
may see as an opportunity and a vulnerability
in order to attack, in order to get something,
from the US because they are preoccupied in transition.
The folks who are supposed to be doing their jobs
are not doing their jobs
because they're engaged in this transition.
The new team is not up to date,
they haven't been briefed,
they haven't been able to start,
so that was really really problematic.
In addition to the delay in certification of the results
and the refusal actually to accept the results,
President Trump never conceded.
It's not necessary that any president concede, by the way,
this is something that is mandated by the constitution
whether or not President Trump accepted
or his followers, or his supporters,
accepted the results of the election
the constitution says his term in office
is over on the day of inauguration,
which is now set at January 20th.
But another thing happened on the way to inauguration
that also inhibited what was going on
or what would have gone on
in a more boring, normal transition.
And those are the events of the storming of the Capitol
on January 6th, right.
January 6th was the day that Congress
was going to certify the results
of the Electoral College vote.
So, at this point all votes were in,
counted, recounted, recounted again in several states,
many lawsuits had played out and had been dismissed,
but the Electoral College had already met
in December, on the 14th,
and certified the results from all of the States
and said indeed Joseph R Biden Jr.
is now going to be president-elect.
The last step in that progress
is for the Electoral College certification
to go to Congress.
And Congress looks to see if these papers are in order,
21:24 but officially a president-elect
21:27 doesn't become a president-elect until Congress certifies
21:32 what the electors of the Electoral College have said.
21:40 And typically this is procedural,
21:42 it happens in both the House and the Senate,
21:46 it's ceremonial,
21:48 there's some pomp in circumstances
21:51 but usually there are no objections.
21:54 But not only were there objections to certifying the counts
21:58 that had already been vetted by lots of different eyes
22:03 and certified by the Electoral College,
22:05 there were challenges to those results in Congress
22:10 which resulted in delays.
22:12 So for every challenge of any state results,
22:16 what happens is that a joint meeting
22:19 where members of the House and members of the Senate
22:24 are together in the same room,
22:26 an objection requires that the Houses go back
22:31 to their separate chambers, debate, vote and come back.
22:37 So they were delaying tactics
22:39 but while this was happening,
22:41 you probably all were paying attention,
22:44 outside of Congress on the mall was a mob.
22:49 And that mob breached the halls of Congress
22:54 in a way that we have never seen before,
22:56 not since The War of 1812 has Congress been invaded.
23:02 It was a sad day,
23:06 and it was meant to disrupt the last official act
23:11 that would have made president-elect Biden
23:15 President-elect Biden, meaning congressional certification.
23:21 Members of Congress were whisked away to safety,
23:26 rioters killed several Capitol police officers,
23:30 one rioter was killed.
23:33 The Senate Parliamentarian had the presence of mind
23:37 to take the boxes which contained the results
23:41 of The Electoral College certification
23:46 with her into hiding,
23:49 and hours and hours later Congress came back
23:54 and in the early hours of the next morning
23:59 finally certified the Electoral College results.
24:04 Those events were traumatizing for a lot of people
24:09 but from the perspective of transition
24:12 it also served as another delay.
24:17 Because typically what's happening in this period
24:19 is that the Senate is not concerned
24:22 with having had it's security breached,
24:27 The Senate is holding hearings on confirmations
24:31 on candidates that have already been selected
24:33 for the incoming administration.
24:36 So not only did that impact things,
24:42 Congress voted to impeach President Trump based on his role
24:49 in the events of January 6th.
24:53 Congress, The House of Representatives,
24:56 passed one article of impeachment
25:01 which then is required to go to the Senate for debate.
25:06 So the House impeaches, it's like an indictment,
25:11 and the Senate convicts or impeaches.
25:18 So those hearings, that trial,
25:22 had to happen during the time
25:24 that typically would have been reserved, almost exclusively,
25:31 for confirming members of Biden's new cabinet.
25:38 You probably all know the results so I'll skip to the end,
25:42 President Trump was not convicted
25:46 which means a couple of different things.
25:49 Number one, he is the only American president
25:51 to have ever been impeached twice in a term,
25:56 he was not convicted or found guilty
26:01 which means he remained in office,
26:04 and for the first time ever in an impeachment proceeding
26:09 a member of the president's own party voted to impeach.
26:15 It didn't have an impact on the ultimate vote,
26:20 Donald Trump was not found guilty,
26:23 but the process took a lot of time.
26:28 So, was this a normal transition?
26:30 Absolutely not.
26:32 What has been the result?
26:34 At this point with the confirmation
26:37 of our former mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh, on March 22nd,
26:43 President Biden now has all 15 cabinet secretaries in place
26:49 plus 13 high level administration officials.
26:53 But remember the number that I told you earlier,
26:55 there are 1200 Senate confirmed positions
27:00 so the Senate has its work cut out for it.
27:04 And at this point the Biden administration
27:07 has far fewer Senate confirmations for his team
27:13 than any other recent predecessor.
27:16 However, one of the things
27:19 that has gone, I think, relatively unnoticed
27:23 in all of the drama of the storming of the Capitol
27:27 and the talk of partisan anchor,
27:31 and I haven't mentioned the COVID crisis once yet
27:35 but that's why we're doing a virtual mock class
27:38 rather than having you visit campus,
27:41 is that we're in the midst
27:42 of an unprecedented global pandemic.
27:46 And so President Biden's job number one
27:50 is to get COVID under control
27:53 and to get the economy reopened.
27:56 So to some extent anything that he campaigned on
28:04 is trumped and that was upon
28:09 by the need of the emergency ahead of us.
28:13 And that's an awful lot,
28:15 like the situation was when he came into office
28:19 in the midst of financial crisis
28:21 as Vice-President to then President-elect Obama.
28:25 Sometimes, no matter what administrations would like to do,
28:30 events force their hand in terms of shaping their agenda.
28:36 So President Biden's number one job is COVID,
COVID has got to get under control,
the vaccination rollout has to increase,
we've gotta get to herd immunity,
we've gotta reopen schools,
and we've gotta reopen the economy.
So one thing that he has managed to do
with absolute partisan only support,

is to pass another giant COVID relief package.
Now, that happened only exclusively with Democratic votes
through kind of a parliamentary trick called reconciliation,
which means that rather than meeting 60 votes in the Senate
you only need a majority.
So the Senate is narrowly controlled by the Democrats,
meaning that there are 50 Republican senators
and 50 democratic senators,
but in the case of a tie, meaning a strict party line vote,
Vice President Kamala Harris, who is a Democrat,
gets to be the tie-breaking vote.
So what is key to moving
the Biden administration's agenda forward,
is not only this problem of a lag
in putting important people into places
where they're doing important jobs,
it's the political composition of Congress
which is extremely divided
and only very very narrowly controlled by Democrats.
So the Democratic Party has what we call a trifecta,
they control the executive branch
and both chambers of the legislative branch
but just by the barest of margins.
So this means two things,
we can either continue to see partisan warfare,
where the minority party forts
what the majority party would like to do,
or for those of you who are optimists
and glass half full people,
it could be a situation
that forces more compromise and bi-partisanship.
The latest $1.9 trillion COVID relief package
was very definitely passed only along partisan lines.
However, if you look at the Senate confirmation hearings
of president Biden's cabinet picks,
it was only one nominee, Neera Tanden,
for the Office of Management and Budget
who did not win confirmation.
And there has been a great deal of bipartisan support,
meaning bipartisan votes on both the relevant committees
and on the Senate floor,
in order to confirm President Biden's picks.
So we have this strange kind of duels story going on
where at the top level we say there's gridlock
and Republicans can't get along with Democrats
and Democrats can't get along with Republicans,
and nobody wants to play together nicely in the sandbox.
32:09 But on some levels there is bipartisan agreement,
32:13 and this is in part
32:15 because despite what we see on the surface,
32:18 those senators know that the United States
32:22 and the success of this administration
32:25 is dependent upon staffing up the Federal Government.
32:30 And President Biden's team, his transition team,
32:35 as both candidate and president-elect
32:38 was one of the most well-organized transition teams
32:45 that the United States has ever seen, right,
32:48 they had their act together.
32:50 So despite the delays they are catching up.
32:56 So as of today, or as of March 22nd
33:00 when Marty Walsh was confirmed as Secretary of Labor,
33:07 President Biden now has a full cabinet.
33:10 And I wanna talk just about one example
33:15 of what and why this is important.
33:18 So the example I chose, although there are many,
33:22 is the Department of Transportation.
33:25 The Department of Transportation
33:27 is headed by Pete Buttigieg, a name you may remember,
33:33 who was at one time a candidate for president.
33:37 He's the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana,
33:41 he has very little federal experience,
33:44 he's got a deep resume for a really young guy
33:48 but he is used to getting stuff done.
33:53 And the Department of Transportation
33:56 doesn't sound very sexy,
33:57 it's in charge of things like highway planning,
34:00 construction of car, truck, air, railroad safety,
34:05 the safety of waterways, ports, highways,
34:09 oil and gas pipelines,
34:12 but he will be key in implementing, selling,
34:19 and making known President Biden's major campaign promise
34:28 after taking care of COVID, right,
34:31 and that is to build back better.
34:34 So, right now the President in coordination with Congress
34:41 is putting together another huge spending bill,
34:45 this time on infrastructure.
34:49 And it will have some kind of sexy name
34:52 but most of that is going to be under the jurisdiction
34:57 of secretary Buttigieg's Department of Transportation.
35:03 And when we think of infrastructure
35:07 we're not just talking about roads and bridges,
35:10 we're also talking about our internet, right.
35:16 We're talking about the ability of Americans
35:21 to connect to high speed internet,
35:25 and if nothing else,
35:28 this pandemic has shown us the absolute importance
35:34 of getting that piece right.
35:36 Another part of building back better
35:40 is working in what we think of as equity,
35:46 making sure that communities that have been most impacted
35:52 by lots of different things,
whether it's the loss of industry in the Rust Belt, the impact of climate change, the loss of jobs due to the impact of COVID on the economy, or the impact of COVID on the economy, are given the opportunity to have jobs, and to have a better future. So within this idea of building back better is kind of a hidden version of something that was introduced and became kind of controversial. And some of you may know that I'm referring to the Green New Deal, right. President Biden's Build Back Better plan involves elements of all of those things. It is not only looking at building, fixing bridges that are crumbling or potholes, but bringing the ability to underserved communities to join the 21st century economy. It's thinking about building resilience, about making sure that we are doing things in a way that is much more sensitive to climate and environment, right. So it is a huge, huge priority, and very likely the next thing that President Biden will attempt to do within that honeymoon period. So he's kind of going at this with all cylinders firing, he has decided that he is gonna go big or go home. And so far he's managed to get one priority win through in terms of the COVID relief package, next up will be infrastructure and then we'll see what he does about other things, the environment, gun control, civil rights, voting rights, international security, right. There are lots and lots of things on his agenda, the question is, how is he going to prioritize them? How is his team going to help him do that? And how is he going to gain support of members of Congress to get this stuff through Congress? And how is he going to gain the support of the American people to be behind what he's doing? Those are all big problems those are all big problems, especially the ones in the most highest places, in these agencies, are absolutely critical for any president to get stuff done, which is what they wanna do. So, we're almost out of time but I wanted to let you know that the Department of Political Science and Legal Studies has been doing a webinar series with GBH here in Boston that is based on President Biden's first 100 days and his policy priorities. And I would like to invite all of you who are interested to tune in this Wednesday, when we will be discussing his foreign policy agenda.
The title of the event is Fixing What's Broken: America's Place in The World, and some of the panelists are...
Actually, the whole panelists are fabulous, but our headliner is Dr. Fiona Hill who is a senior fellow at Brookings Institution, and who some of you may remember from President Trump's first impeachment trial. So with that, I will ask if there are any questions, I'm happy to answer them, and I hope that I will see some, if not all of you, on campus and in my classes in the fall. So thank you for your time and good luck with your decision-making.
It looks like we do have two questions already. I think one of them you kind of already answered, but maybe the first one you could address.
Actually I can't find the questions, can you read to me, Stephanie?
So the first question is, with the persistent use of executive orders, is there ever push back on what is considered essential to what an executive order covers?
Okay, and actually I did find the Q and A box, it was just hidden.
So, yes, the problem with executive orders is that they can be undone, just like I talked about before. And executive orders have been increasingly used by contemporary presidents. So every president in the contemporary era has used more executive orders than their predecessor. So Bush used more than his predecessor, Obama used more than Bush, Trump used more than Obama, and we'll see what Biden looks like.
Right now he's not on track to winning any of those battles for most executive orders, but what is more preferential and what's better than an executive order to get something done, because it can be reversed, is to do something legislatively. And that's really, really hard if we have a Congress at loggerheads or so deeply divided and there isn't a clear majority.
So, President Biden has promised to try and get bi-partisan deals, right. Legislative solutions are always, always, always superior to executive orders, but they're harder to get, they take longer. And the scope of what an executive order can do is limited, it can only do what Congress has already apportioned in terms of money,
42:49 and it really has to do with interpretation of legislation.
42:57 The second question is,
42:59 has there ever been a reluctant transition on one end,
43:02 similar to what happened
43:04 with President Trump and President Biden?
43:07 And the answer is no.
43:12 There have been contentious transitions,
43:15 there have been two inaugurations
43:23 where the preceding president did not attend,
43:29 and those were both unhappy, losing presidents,
43:37 or departing presidents, had the last name of Adams,
43:40 so it's been a really really long time
43:42 since that's happened.
43:44 There have been contentious transitions
43:48 with a great deal of dislike
43:50 between the incoming and outgoing president,
43:52 so, for instance, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt came
43:58 into power his predecessor...
44:01 The two of them despised one another,
44:05 yet they did what they thought was necessary
44:13 in terms of making a show of a peaceful transition of power.
44:20 And lastly I would say, as an example,
44:24 there was a really contentious election
44:27 between Al Gore and George Bush, right.
44:35 If any of you know American politics,
44:38 the result of that election came down
44:41 to a recount of votes in Florida.
44:45 And the results of the recount...
44:48 The recount was stopped by a judge's order,
44:53 that judge's order was challenged
44:55 and this case went all the way up to The Supreme Court.
44:59 And The Supreme court decided
45:01 that President Bush was going to win
45:06 and candidate Gore would not win.
45:11 That was another point at which transition was delayed
45:16 because there was uncertainty in the results,
45:19 and there is a lot of anecdotal evidence
45:23 that there was a lot of animosity
45:26 between the outgoing Clinton administration
45:33 and the incoming Bush administration,
45:35 to the extent that nasty letters
45:38 were left in The White House drawers,
45:40 that information wasn't shared, right,
45:44 so deliberate acts of kind of revenge.
45:49 So what President Bush experienced on his way in to office
45:57 actually really shaped the transition
46:00 that he left office in.
46:02 So, as you know, President Bush was president,
46:06 not very popular,
46:08 until the events of 9/11.
46:11 After 9/11 he became a really popular president,
46:15 there was this rallying around the flag effect.
46:18 However, 9/11 was significant,
46:20 and a lot of security analysts blame a botched
46:26 and delayed transition
46:30 for intelligence failures that led to the events of 9/11.
46:36 So, President Bush served as a two term president
46:42 and he instructed his staff
46:45 as he was getting ready to leave The White House,
46:47 months and months in advance,
46:49 that he did not want the incoming president,
46:53 whoever it was going to be,
46:55 to have to deal with what he dealt with on the way in.
46:59 So that handoff of the baton
47:02 between the outgoing Bush administration
47:05 and the incoming Obama administration,
47:08 even in the midst of financial crisis was flawless.
47:14 He directed his staff to be gracious,
47:17 to be open and to provide everything that was necessary
47:21 to ensure the success of his predecessor
47:26 despite them being in different parties.
47:30 President Obama, as an outgoing two term president,
47:36 publicly commented that he had such appreciation
47:41 for the graciousness and helpfulness of that transition,
47:45 that despite Democrats deep he surprise and dismay
47:53 that Donald Trump rather than Hillary Clinton won
47:56 the election in 2016,
47:59 he instructed his staff the same thing.
48:03 That they should do everything humanly possible
48:05 to make the transition to the Trump presidency
48:09 as smooth as possible.
48:12 And his thinking was not only did he want
48:15 to do what George Bush did for him,
48:19 but he knew that the Trump team
48:21 didn't have a very organized transition team leading up
48:26 into the election,
48:27 so they wanted to give them extra help.
48:32 So I hope that answers your questions,
48:37 and if you've got more questions
48:39 we can put my email in the chat
48:42 and I'm happy to talk with anyone offline.
48:46 But it seems like we are at the end of class,
48:52 so everybody get up, stretch,
48:54 I'm gonna check out your songs
48:56 'cause some of them I may use in other classes
48:59 so thank you for the information.
49:02 And I'm gonna turn this over to Stephanie.
49:05 - Yeah, thank you so much Professor Kulich.
49:07 So I put her email in the chat,
49:10 I also linked our admitted site
49:13 so that you can check out some of the other events.
49:15 You also have the additional event
49:16 that Professor Kulich mentioned for Wednesday night,
49:19 so that would definitely be great for you all to join.
49:22 And then just a reminder
49:23 that our deposit deadline is May 1st.
49:26 So we hope that you enjoyed the class,
49:28 we hope that we'll see you on campus in the fall.
49:31 and hope you enjoy the rest of your day.
49:35 - Bye everyone.
49:37 - Thank you.
49:52 - All right, we're all done?
49:56 - Yeah, looks someone wrote a very long, nice comment
50:04 about their songs, so that's good.
50:09 - All right, I'm gonna save the chat.
50:14 - Yeah, it should...
50:15 When I log off the chat should be safe, so I'll do that.
50:22 - That is a very long explanation.
50:27 Well, I hope I have that student in my class.
50:32 - Yeah, for sure.
50:34 - All right. - All right,
50:35 well, admissions really appreciates you helping us out
50:38 with these events and... - Sure.
50:40 I hope they are effective.
50:43 - Yes, that's our hope as well.
50:45 We had nine students login.
50:49 - Okay, and how many did you run?
50:52 Classes that is.
50:54 - I think we're close to 15 or 16,
50:58 so there are quite a few.
51:00 - Yeah, that's great. - Yeah.
51:03 - COVID adaptations.
51:05 - Yes (chuckles).
51:07 All right - All right Stephanie,
51:08 nice to see you.
51:10 Just in time, the sun is about to...
51:12 - Create a whole new lighting for you (chuckles).
51:15 - That's exactly, all right take care.