

Political Science 304: Legislative Process

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Office Hours: Mon 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tues 11-12 and 2-4
Weds 8-10 a.m.
And by appointment

Expectations of the Students

This course will help students develop a complete understanding of the United States Congress. The founders expected Congress to be the truly representative branch of government and the focus in this class will be on the nature of representation in congressional behavior. We will be asking, and collectively answering, questions such as: What do we consider to be “good” representation? What are the incentives for legislators to represent their constituents? What are the incentives for the representation of other, non-geographic groups? How do (1) the organization of Congress, (2) political parties and (3) the other branches of government influence the level of representation that congresspeople provide?

The required readings and assignments are listed on the following pages. All readings are from the three books listed. The readings provide a base of knowledge from which the lectures proceed. I often refer to the readings briefly to point out examples, etc. Therefore, lecture will be difficult to follow unless the readings have been completed prior to class.

Grading

Final Exam (30%)

There will be a final exam on December 14 from 12 – 2 p.m. The exam will consist of 30 terms of which you must provide a definition, an example, and a political significance for 25 (we will discuss these in detail prior to the exam). A study guide is attached to this syllabus. I HIGHLY recommend starting to learn the terms on the study guide beginning as soon as possible.

Missed exams will NOT be made up except for medical reasons. You must have a doctor’s note in order to take a makeup exam.

Simulation Papers (10% each, 40% total)

After the simulations, students must turn in a 2-page double-spaced paper on specific concepts IN THE TEXTS ONLY (not the lectures) that they saw acted out in the simulation. More information on these papers is provided at the end of the syllabus.

General Participation (10%)

Participation in class discussions is a mandatory part of this course. This will include both verbal participation as well as in-class or take-home activities randomly assigned throughout the

semester. While you do not need to complete 100% of these activities, you should make sure that you are present for a large majority of them. No make-ups are allowed.

Simulation Participation (20%)

The four simulations included in this course are a vital part of the learning experience. Every student is expected to be present during each simulation, to do the necessary research, and to play an active part. The expectations of students during each simulation will be explained during the prep period for that activity. ATTENDANCE IS ALSO REQUIRED ON OCTOBER 21ST AND 26TH AS PART OF THE SIMULATION ACTIVITIES AND AS PART OF YOUR SIMULATION GRADE.

Other information of which you should be aware

Cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty will, at the least, result in a failing grade in this class. Self-plagiarism is cheating and will result in a failing grade as well. Students with disabilities often have special needs. If you are a student with physical, educational or other disability-related needs, please make me aware of any accommodations you require. I am more than happy to work with you in any way necessary. All discussions of this nature will be confidential.

Required Books

Davidson and Olezak. *Congress and Its Members*.
Weissberg et al. *Classics of Congressional Politics*

Please note that the Mayhew book is not listed. Please feel free to return it to the bookstore if you purchased it already.

Readings and Lectures

PART I: CONGRESSIONAL ORGANIZATION: THE BASIS OF REPRESENTATION AND POWER

Aug 24:	Introduction: The Study of Congress	Chap 1, Weisberg
Aug 26-31	Developing a definition of representation	Chap 1 & 5, D&O Chap 4-7, Smith
Sept 2	Institutionalization	Chap 2, D&O Chap 1-2, Smith
Sept 7	No class: Labor Day	
Sept 9	Elections	Chap 3 & 4, D&O Chap 8-9 & 12, Smith
Sept 14-16	ELECTIONS SIMULATION	

Sept 21-23	Committees	Chap 7, D&O Chap 17-19 & 41, Smith
Sept 28-30	COMMITTEE SIMULATION	
Oct 5	Leadership and Political Parties	Chap 6, D&O Chap 14-16, Smith
Oct 7	Procedures and Norms	Chap 8, D&O Handouts on floor procedure
Oct 19	Legislative Decision Making	Chap 9, D&O Chap 25-27 Smith
Oct 12-14	FLOOR SIMULATION	
Oct 21	Summary of Part I of class and simulation debriefing	
Oct 26	First three simulation papers due: Class discussion on concepts identified in the simulations	

Attendance is required on Oct 21 and 26 as part of the simulation grade

PART II: THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE OTHER PLAYERS IN THE POLICY PROCESS

Oct 28-Nov 2	Congress & Interest Groups	Chap 13, D&O Chap 36-37, Smith
Nov 4	Congress & the President	Chap 10, D&O Chap 30-33, Smith
Nov 9-16	Congress & the Bureaucracy	Chap 11, D&O Chap 11, Smith
Nov 18	Congress & the Courts	Chap 12, D&O Chap 34-35, Smith

PART III: CONGRESS AND POLICY MAKING

Nov 23	Domestic Policy and Budgeting	Chap 14, D&O Chap 38-39, Smith
Nov 25-30	LOGROLLING SIMULATION	
Dec 2	Foreign Policy	Chap 15, D&O

PART IV: MISC. TOPICS OF INTEREST

Dec 7	Importance of Congressional Staff	
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FINAL SIMULATION PAPER DUE

Final exam is on Monday, May 11th, 2:15 to 4:15 p.m.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SIMULATION PAPERS (10% EACH, 40% TOTAL)

On October 26th and December 7th, your simulation papers are due. You will turn in the first three on the 26th and the last one on the 7th. There will be one paper for each simulation and the papers will be 2-pages each, double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12 pt font.

In each paper, you will present how 4 concepts discussed in the readings (NOT the lectures) were illustrated in the related simulation. You are expected to cite the textbooks appropriately for each paper which means you will also have to include a bibliography. You can have a single bibliography for the first three papers and then one for the last paper. You should also attach some evidence of the research you did for each simulation to the papers to illustrate to me the preparation you did.

The grade sheet for each paper is as follows:

A. Introduction (.5 points/10): Does it *briefly* state what the paper will be about? Is it clear?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
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B. Concept definition (4/10): Were the four concepts included in the discussion defined clearly and concisely?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
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C. Simulation examples (4/10): Were the four examples clearly explained and connected directly to the appropriate course concepts?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
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D. Overall paper (1/10): Was the paper well-organized and clear without typos and grammatical errors?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
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E. Citations/Bibliography (.5/10): Did students use appropriate citation and bibliographic format?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
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LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Study Guide for Final Exam

The two Congresses	Legislative/executive interdependence
House apportionment	<i>Gomillion V. Lightfoot</i>
BCRA 2002	Biases of voting
Issue voting	Constituency service
Primary constituency	Floor leaders
Informal party groups	Conference committee
Informal criteria (for committee assignments)	Bill drafting
Rules Committee	Unanimous consent agreements
Conference report	Bicameralism
Institutionalization	Malapportionment
Incumbency factor	Parallel campaigns
Surge and decline	Hill styles
Representation	Joseph Cannon
Whips	Coalition building (leadership)
Policy environment	Shortcuts for bills
Committee of the Whole	Rule 21
Decision to specialize	Implicit bargaining
Logrolling	Party cohesion
Speaker	Speaker as coach
Conditional party government theory	Individualism (in Senate)
Promoting party unity	Party caucuses
Coalition building	Nation of joiners
Social lobbying	Jack Abramoff scandal
Bundling	Issue networks

Congressional caucuses (as informal groups)	Foreign lobbying
Power to persuade	"Two presidencies"
Constitutional ambiguities (in the relationship between the president and Congress)	
Effect of party (on voting)	Bargaining strategy
Political ideology (on voting)	Whip
Personal style (of Speaker)	Majority leader (Senate)
Scheduling floor business	Informal party groups
Two-party system in Congress	Omnibus bills
Exchange hypothesis	Electronic lobbying
Advocacy campaigns	Rating legislators
Lobby Disclosure act of 1995	Revolving door
Administrative president	Post-veto action
"Advise and consent"	Title creep
Administrative Procedure Act of 1946	Congressional Review Act of 1996
Mandatory reports	Constitutional review
Bifurcated career patterns	Withdrawal of jurisdiction
Adopting policy	Bicameralism (as it relates to policy making)
Piecemeal policy making	Budgetary authorizations
Backdoor spending techniques	Gramm-Rudman-Hollings
Structural policies	Congressional-military-industrial complex
Strategic policies	Legislative mandates (in foreign policy)
War Powers Resolution	Senatorial courtesy
Rulemaking process	Oversight
Congressional vetoes	Inspectors general
<i>Alabama v. Garrett</i>	Statutory interpretation

Nomination battles	Regulatory policy
Reactive policy making	Continuing resolutions
Reconciliation	Budget Enforcement Act
NAFTA	Executive agreements

You should also be able to summarize each of the articles in *The American Congress Reader* in two or three sentences and provide a significance for them as well. They will be referred to by the author(s)'s name(s).

Cooper and Brady	Cox and McCubbins
Smith	Evans
Kingdon	Krehbiel
Cameron	Binder
Fisher	Rosen
Hall and Wayman	Wright
Hibbing and Theiss-Morse	Brady and Theriault
James Madison	Fenno
Weisberg	Cox and Katz
Jacobson	Hurwitz, Moiles and Rohde
Malzman and Smith	Talbert Jones and Baumgartner
Shepsle and Weingast	Cameron, Cover and Segal
Krutz, Fleisher and Bond	Soloman and Birnbaum

The exam will consist of 30 randomly selected terms of which you must provide answers for 25 of them. Each term will be worth 4 points to be distributed as follows:

1. Definition (1 pt):

Example (1 pt):

This term is important to the study of Congress because it illustrates.... Or This term is important to the study of Congress because it affects XX by (2 pts):