

Seminar on Congress PS: 5100-101 – Spring 2007
Thursday 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Dr. Phillip J. Ardoin

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 10-12:00

Wednesday: 10-12:00

Thursday: 9:30-12:00 & 5-6:00

If the above posted office hours are not convenient for you due to your work or class schedule, please e-mail or simply see me before or after class to schedule an alternative time.

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS: Also, feel free to e-mail me. I check my e-mail regularly throughout the day and evening. It gives you instant access to me at hours not normally considered office hours. It also allows me to respond to questions about assignments, tests and other class material in an efficient and timely manner.

MY SPRING 2007 CLASS SCHEDULE:

MWF 9-9:50 American Government

MW 2-3:15 Legislative Politics

Th 6-9:00 Graduate Seminar in Congress

COURSE OBJECTIVE: The objective of this course is to provide you with a broad overview of the state of knowledge on institutional legislative politics. While we will concentrate our efforts on the study of the United States Congress, any study of legislative politics necessitates some consideration of legislative bodies in comparative sub-national and cross-national settings; hence, we will review some research on state legislatures, city councils, and parliamentary assemblies, though the heavy focus of our attention will be the United States Congress.

COURSE TEXT BOOKS:

1. *Unorthodox Lawmaking: New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress* by Barbara Sinclair
2. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* 2nd Edition by John W. Kingdon
3. *Stalemate: Causes and Consequences of Legislative Gridlock* by Sarah A. Binder
4. *Greasing the Wheels: Using Pork Barrel Projects to Build Majority Coalitions in Congress* by Diana Evans
5. *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics* by Carmines and Stimson
6. *The Broken Branch: How Congress is Failing American and How to Get it Back on Track* by Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein
7. *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches* by Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal
8. A CD-ROM with additional readings will also be provided to each of you with files in PDF format.

GRADING: Your grade in this course will be calculated as follows:

- Class Participation 25%
- Discussion Leader: 5%
- Reaction Papers: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%

AS PER THE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE....

Students attending Appalachian State University agree to abide by the following code:

- Students will not lie, cheat, or steal to gain academic advantage.
- Students will oppose every instance of academic dishonesty.
- Students shall agree to abide by the Academic Integrity Code when submitting the admission application.

EXAMS: – There will be 2 exams in this course. The first (midterm) exam will be an in-class exam which will cover the readings on the first six weeks of course readings. The second (Final) exam will be a take home exam which will cover ALL of the material discussed in class and covered in the assigned readings over the entire semester. Both exams will follow an essay format, providing you with an opportunity to display your understanding of the covered material and your ability to evaluate and summarizing the major concepts/issues which were examined throughout the course.

REACTION PAPERS: You are required to write 3 reaction papers during the first half of the semester and 3 reaction papers during the second half of the semester. The purpose of these papers is to have you critically address one or more of the major concepts put forward in the assigned readings of the week. **I do not want a summary of the readings, I want a CRITICAL ANALYSIS.** The reaction papers should be 2-4 pages in length. They must be typed (10-12 pt font) and you must use a standard citing/bibliography format. The reaction paper is due at the beginning of class – no excuses. I urge you not to wait until the last 3 weeks of each half of the semester to write your 3 reaction papers. If you wait until the last 3 weeks and are unable to submit a paper at the start of a class, you will simply receive a zero for the paper.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: This is a graduate seminar and therefore I expect all of you to **ACTIVELY** participate in the weekly class discussions. If you do not regularly contribute to our weekly class discussions, you will not pass this class. Passive participation is unacceptable. Please note, participation is worth 25% of your final grade.

DISCUSSION LEADER: Each person will select a week to lead the discussion of a section/topic of the week's assigned readings. In order to prepare for being a discussion leader, you should meet with me during the week prior to the class discussion you are leading. This meeting will allow us to confer regarding which issue/topic you will be responsible for leading and the major concepts/issues which you will address regarding this topic.

Important Dates		Grading Scale			
Midterm Exam	March 1st	A	94-100	C	74-76
Spring Break	March 10-18 th	A-	90-93	C-	70-73
Easter Break	April 9-10 th	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
Reading Day	April 26	B	84-86	D	64-66
Take Home Final Exam	Due Monday April 30 th by 3:00pm	B-	80-83	D-	60-63
		C+	77-79	F	Below 60

January 18th

Introduction to the U.S. Congress and Research on Legislative Systems

- Polsby, "Institutionalization in the U.S. House of Representatives," *APSR* (March 1968: 144-68).
- Asher, "The Learning of Legislative Norms," *APSR* (June 1973: 499-513).
- Born, "The Shared Fortunes of Congress and Congressmen: Members May Run from Congress, but They Can't Hide," *JOP* (November 1990: 1223-41).
- Sinclair, "The New World of U.S. Senators," in Dodd and Oppenheimer, *Congress Reconsidered* (8th edition).
- Hibbing and Smith, "What the American Public Wants Congress to Be," in Dodd and Oppenheimer (eds.), *Congress Reconsidered* (8th edition).
- Sinclair, "An Effective Congress and Effective Members: What Does It Take?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* Vol. 29, No. 3 (Sep., 1996), pp. 435-439.
- Robert H. Durr; John B. Gilmour; and Christina Wolbrecht "Explaining Congressional Approval" *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 41, No. 1 (Jan., 1997), pp. 175-207.

January 25th

Unorthodox Lawmaking: New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress by Barbara Sinclair

February 1st

Party Leadership and Congressional Committee

- Rohde, *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House*, chapter 3-5.
- Moscardelli, Haspel, and Wike, "Party Building Through Campaign Finance Reform: Conditional Party Government in the 104th Congress," *JOP* (August 1998: 691-704).
- Groseclose and King, "Committee Theories Reconsidered," in Dodd and Oppenheimer (eds.), *Congress Reconsidered*.
- Endersby and McCurdy, "Committee Assignments in the U.S. Senate," *LSQ* (May 1996: 219-34).
- Krehbiel, "Are Congressional Committees Composed of Preference Outliers?" *APSR* (March 1990: 149-64).
- King, "The Nature of Congressional Committee Jurisdictions," *APSR* (March 1994: 48-62).

February 8th

Representation and Voting

- Ardoin, *Understanding Congressional Responsiveness*, Chapters 1-3, Unpublished Dissertation.
- Kingdon, *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*, chapter 10.
- McCrone and Kuklinski, "The Delegate Theory of Representation," *AJPS* (May 1979: 278-300).
- Kuklinski and Elling, "Representational Role, Constituency Opinion, and Legislative Roll Call Behavior," *AJPS* (February 1977: 135-47).
- Miller and Stokes, "Constituency Influence in Congress," *APSR* (March 1963: 45-56).
- Erikson, "Constituency Opinion and Congressional Behavior: A Reexamination of the Miller-Stokes
- Representation Data," *AJPS* (August 1978: 511-35).
- Thomas, "Election Proximity and Senatorial Roll Call Voting," *AJPS* (February 1985: 96-111).
- Glazer and Robbins, "Congressional Response to Constituency Change," *AJPS* (May 1985: 259-73).
- Wright, "Policy Voting in the U.S. Senate: Who is Represented?" *LSQ* (November 1989: 465-86).
- LeVeaux and Garand, "Race, Roll Calls, and Redistricting: The Impact of Race-Based Redistricting on Congressional Roll-Call Voting," *PRQ* (March 2001: 31-52).
- Ardoin and Garand, "Measuring Constituency Ideology in U.S. House Districts: A Top-Down Simulation Approach," *Journal of Politics* (November 2003: forthcoming).

February 15th *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* 2nd Edition by John W. Kingdon

February 22nd *Stalemate: Causes and Consequences of Legislative Gridlock* by Sarah A. Binder

March 1st Midterm Exam

March 8th *Greasing the Wheels: Using Pork Barrel Projects to Build Majority Coalitions in Congress* by Diana Evans

March 15th Spring Break Week

March 22nd Voting and Ideology Measures

- Hurwitz, Moiles, and Rohde, "Distributive and Partisan Issues in Agriculture Policy in the 104th House," *APSR* (December 2001: 911-22).
- Bickers and Stein, "The Congressional Pork Barrel in a Republican Era," *JOP* (November 2000: 1070-86).
- Jackson and Kingdon, "Ideology, Interest Group Scores, and Legislative Votes," *AJPS* (August 1992: 805-23).
- Koford, "Dimensions of Congressional Voting," *APSR* (September 1989: 949-62).
- Poole, Rosenthal, and Koford, "Controversy: On Dimensionalizing Roll-Call Votes in the U.S. Congress," *APSR* (September 1991: 957-75).
- Hill, Hanna, and Shafqat, "The Liberal-Conservative Ideology of U.S. Senators: A New Measure," *AJPS* (October 1997: 1395-1413).
- Brunell, Koetzle, Dinardo, Grofman, and Feld, "The $R^2 = .93$: Where Then Do They Differ? Comparing Liberal and Conservative Interest Group Ratings," *LSQ* (February 1999: 87-101).
- Groseclose, Levitt, and Snyder, "Comparing Interest Group Scores Across Time and Chambers: Adjusted ADA Scores for the U.S. Congress," *APSR* (March 1999: 33-50).
- Snyder, "Artificial Extremism in Interest Group Ratings," *LSQ* (August 1992: 319-46).
- Herrera, Epperlein, and Smith, "The Stability of Congressional Roll-Call Indexes," *PRQ* (June 1995: 403-16).
- Poole and Rosenthal, "The Dynamics of Interest Group Evaluations of Congress," *Public Choice* (December 1998: 323-61).
- Snyder and Groseclose, "Estimating Party Influence in Congressional Roll-Call Voting," *AJPS* (April 2000: 193-211).
- McCarty, Poole, and Rosenthal, "The Hunt for Party Discipline in Congress," *APSR* (September 2001: 673-88).
- Ansolabehere, Snyder, and Stewart, "The Effects of Party and Preferences on Congressional Roll-Call Voting," *LSQ* (November 2001: 533-72).

March 29th Partisanship and the Realignment Intro

- Patterson and Caldeira, "Party Voting in Congress," *BJPS* (January 1988: 111-31).
- Rohde, "'The Reports of My Death Are Greatly Exaggerated': Parties and Party Voting in the House of Representatives," in Parker (ed.), *Changing Perspectives on Congress*.
- Hurley and Kerr, "The Effects of Party Advantage on the Partisan Support of New Members of the U.S. House of Representatives," *LSQ* (February 2000: 53-74).
- Brewer, Mariani, and Stonecase, "Northern Democrats and Party Polarization in the U.S. House," *LSQ* (August 2002: 423-44).
- Fleisher, "Explaining the Change in Roll-Call Voting Behavior of Southern Democrats," *JOP* (May 1993: 327-41).
- Hood and Morris, "Boll Weevils and Roll-Call Voting: A Study in Time and Space," *LSQ* (May 1998: 245-70).
- Valentino and Sears, "Old Times There Are Not Forgotten: Race and Partisan Realignment in the Contemporary South *AJPS* Vol. 49, No.3 (Jul., 2005), pp. 672-688.
- Charles S. Bullock, III; Donna R. Hoffman; and Ronald Keith Gaddie "The Consolidation of the White Southern Congressional Vote" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 58, No. 2. (Jun., 2005), pp. 231-243.
- Jonathan Bernstein, Rebecca E. Bromley, and Krystle T. Meyer (2006) "Republicans and Golf, Democrats and Outkast: Or, Party Political Culture from the Top Down," *The Forum*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 3, Article 8.

April 5th *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics* by Carmines and Stimson

April 12th *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches* by Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal

April 19th *The Broken Branch: How Congress is Failing American and How to Get it Back on Track* by Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein

April 26th Reading Day