Thursday 6:00 – 9:00 PM  
Dr. Phillip J. Ardoin

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
E-mail: ardoinpj@appstate.edu  
Phone: 262-7187  
Room: 2059 Old Belk Library Classroom Bldg  
Website: http://www1.appstate.edu/~ardoinpj/

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  
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.

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<th>Important Dates</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>A 94-100</td>
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<td>A- 90-93</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>B+ 87-89</td>
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<td>B 84-86</td>
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<td>Easter Break</td>
<td>C 74-76</td>
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<td>C- 70-73</td>
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<td>Reading Day</td>
<td>D+ 67-69</td>
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<td>D 64-66</td>
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<td>Take Home Final Exam</td>
<td>B- 80-83</td>
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<td>B 77-79</td>
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<td>C+ Below 60</td>
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January 18th
Introduction to the U.S. Congress and Research on Legislative Systems


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.
- Groseclose and King, “Committee Theories Reconsidered,” in Dodd and Oppenheimer (eds.), *Congress Reconsidered*.
February 8th

Representation and Voting


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


March 29th Partisanship and the Realignment Intro

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