

Department of Political Science
Ohio State University
Spring 2000
T- Th, 5:30-7:18 PM
Derby 0080

Political Science 517: Legislative Politics and Public Policy
<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/tgrant/ps517.html>

Instructor
Tobin Grant

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Course Description:

Office Hours

2151 Derby Hall
TTh 4:15-5:15 PM
or by appointment

"Lawmaking is the core decision-making process of a democratic state. It is the means for defining, promoting, and regulating community life and, accordingly, is spectacularly interesting and highly relevant to our purposes as political scientists" (Jones 1995, 1).

Legislative politics is at the heart of American politics. It is where we decide how we will live together as citizens. As a result, this is an important and exciting topic of study. The first half of the course will focus on representatives -- why we have them, how they have changed over time, and how they behave. The second half will look at lawmaking, particularly in the U.S. Congress. It is the goal of the course to introduce students to the latest research in this field, to develop the skills needed to think critically about politics, and to encourage a lifelong study of legislative politics and public policy.

Evaluations:

Students are expected to attend class, complete the required assignments, and participate in class discussion. Grades will be based on:

Midterm exam	(30%)
Final exam	(40%)
Daily assignments	(10%)
Other assignments and participation	(10%)
Research Project	(10%)

Exams will cover all of the material covered in the lecture and the readings. Not all of the material presented in the readings will be discussed in the lectures. Students are responsible for this material as well. The final exam is currently scheduled for Tuesday August 29 at 5:30 PM. I will let you know if this time changes.

Course Outline:

Week 1	June 20
	June 22
Week 2	June 27

	June 29
Week 3	July 4
	July 6
Week 4	July 11
	July 13
Week 5	July 18
	July 20
Week 6	July 25
	July 27
Week 7	August 1
	August 3
Week 8	August 8
	August 10
Week 9	August 15
	August 17
Week 10	August 22
	August 24

Class time:
& Legislative Politics Introduction to Congress

Representation
History of Legislatures
Research Day
Holiday
District Home Style
Legislative Activities
Legislative Elections
Campaign Finance
Midterm
Introduction to the Legislative Process
Committees
Preliminary Action
House Lawmaking
Senate Lawmaking
Resolving Differences
State Lawmaking
Executive Relations
Gridlock!
Political Parties

Class time will be spent primarily on lecture, but time will also be spent discussing the topic at hand and learning from each other. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings for that day.

Web site:

All updates, assignments, and handouts will be available only from the P.S. 517 web site ([http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/tgrant"ps5 1 7.html](http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/tgrant)). The student is responsible to check the web site for the readings and assignments for the week.

Contacting the instructor:

If you have a question, please email the question to me. Unless you are told otherwise, all correspondence and assignments will be sent to me via email. My email address is grant.112@osu.edu. I will answer the question promptly. If the question requires more explanation, I will be happy to meet and discuss it further. I can meet

with you during office hours by appointment.

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Readings:

Each class period will have a set of assigned readings. By noon on the day of class, students are expected to email the instructor with at least two questions from the day's reading. These questions can be on something that the student found confusing or incorrect. Details on the reading assignments can be found at the course web site.

The required books for this course are:

Bond, Jon R. and Richard Fleisher, Eds. (2000). *Polarized Politics: Congress and the President in a Partisan Era*. CQ Press. ISBN 1-56802-493-2.

Fenno, Richard F Jr. (1978). *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. HarperCollins Publishers. ISBN 0-673-39440-9

King, David C. (1997). *Turf Wars: How Congressional Committees Claim Jurisdiction*. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0-226-43624-1.

Oleszek, Walter J. (1996). *Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process*. 4~ Edition. CQ Press. ISBN 0-87187-703-1.

Rosenthal, Alan. (1998). *The Decline of Representative Democracy: Process, Participation, and Power in State Legislatures*. CQ Press. ISBN 0-87187-974-3.

These books should be available at the SBX, Long's, and the campus bookstore. I will also be placing copies on reserve in the main library. You can also buy the books online. Books on the course web site are linked directly to Amazon.com.

Policies:

Please tell me if you have a disability that affects your performance in class and I will do my best to help.

Students are responsible for all the material listed on the syllabus and covered during class periods. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from another student. You are expected to come to class prepared; i.e. you should keep up with the reading. Class participation is strongly encouraged.

Missing an exam without prior permission of the instructor may result in failure on that exam. Make-up tests will only be arranged in extreme cases.

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and handled according to University policy.

