

Political Science 717
Legislative Politics, Winter 2000

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General Description

This course is designed to provide an overview of significant research on the U.S. Congress. We shall be focusing on major and classic books and articles concerning various substantive topics in congressional research such as congressional elections, structure and procedure, decision making and voting coalitions, and relations with the executive branch. The reading for the semester is to be construed as necessary but not sufficient preparation for comprehensive exams.

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Participation	20%
Paper	40%
Final Exam	40%

Notes: Participation includes class participation and attendance of at least two job talks. The final exam will be given at the regular time scheduled by the registrar's office.

The following books are available for purchase from the bookstores or on-line sources:

- Arnold, R. Douglas. 1979. *Congress and the Bureaucracy*.
Bond, Jon R., and Richard Fleisher. 1990. *The President in the Legislative Arena*.
Dodd, Lawrence C., and Richard L. Schott. 1979. *Congress and the Administrative State*.
Cox, Gary, and Matthew McCubbins. 1997. *Legislative Leviathan*.
Fenno, Richard F. 1978. *Home Style*.
Fiorina, Morris. 1989. *Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment*.
Hall, Richard. *Participation in Congress*
Jacobson, Gary. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*. 4th edition.
Kingdon, John W. 1988. *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*.
Matthews, Donald R., and James A. Stimson. 1975. *Yeas and Nays: Normal Decision-Making in the U.S. House of Representatives*.
Mayhew, David R. 1974. *Congress and the Electoral Connection*.
Oleszek, Walter. 1995. *Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process*.
Smith, Steven S. 1989. *Call to Order: Floor Politics in the House and Senate*
Weisberg et al. 1999. *Classics in Congressional Politics*.
Young, James Sterling. 1966. *The Washington Community*.

The three required articles that are not in Weisberg et al (1999) will be available at Cop-Ez.

Readings

January 4th Class cancelled by the university due to Y2K ☹

The Historical Congress and an Overview of Congress

January 11th

Required: Young, James Sterling. 1966. *The Washington Community*.
Fiorina, Morris. 1989. *Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment*.
Weisberg et al. 1999. Introduction and Part I: Legislative Development.

Recommended: Brady, David. *Critical Elections*.

Congressional Elections

January 18th

Required: Jacobson, Gary. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*. 4th edition.
Part III: Elections. Weisberg et al. 1999.

Recommended: Jacobson, Gary. 1987. "The Marginals Never Vanished." *American Journal of Political Science*.

Jacobson, Gary. 1978. "The Effects of Campaign Spending in Congressional Elections." *American Political Science Review*. 72.

Krasno, Jonathan, and Donald Green. 1988. "Salvation for the Spendthrift Incumbent: Reestimating the Effects of Campaign Spending in House Elections." *American Journal of Political Science*. 32.

Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M. 1996. "A Dynamic Analysis of the Role of War Chests in Campaign Strategy." *American Journal of Political Science*. 40(2): 352-71.

Member Representation and Public/Congress Interactions

January 25th

Required: Fenno, Richard F. 1978. *Home Style*.
Mayhew, David R. 1974. *Congress and the Electoral Connection*.
Weisberg et al. 1999. Part II: Representation.

Bicameral Perspectives

February 1st

Required: Smith, Steven S. 1989. *Call to Order: Floor Politics in the House and Senate*.

Recommended: Sinclair, Barbara. *The Transformation of the U.S. Senate*.

Binder, Sarah A. 1997. *Minority Rights, Majority Rule: Partisanship and the Development of Congress*.

Fenno, Richard F. 1982. *The United States Senate: A Bicameral Perspective*.

Congressional Norms, Policies, and Procedures

February 8th

Required: Oleszek, Walter. 1995. *Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process*.
Weisberg et al. 1999. Part IV: Legislative Norms and Rules.

Recommended: Bach and Smith. *Managing Uncertainty in the House of Representatives*.

Parties and Leadership

February 15th

Required: Cox, Gary, and Matthew McCubbins. 1997. *Legislative Leviathan*.
Weisberg et al. 1999. Part VI: Party Leadership

Recommended: Rohde, David. 1991. Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House.
Rohde, David. 1992. "Electoral Forces, Political Agendas, and Partisanship in the House and Senate." In Davidson, ed., *The Postreform Congress*.
Shickler, Eric, and Rich. 1997. "Controlling the Floor: Parties as Procedural Coalitions in the House." *American Journal of Political Science* 41.
Cox, Gary, and McCubbins. 1997. "Toward a Theory of Legislative Rules Changes: Assessing Shickler and Rich's Evidence." *American Journal of Political Science* 41.
Collie, Melissa. 1998. "Universalism and the Parties in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1921-80." *American Journal of Political Science*, 32: 865-883.

Committees

Required: Weisberg et al. Part V: Legislative Committees.

Recommended: Shepsle, Kenneth. 1979. "Institutional Arrangements and Equilibrium In Multidimensional Voting Models." *American Journal of Political Science*, 23: 27-59.
Krehbiel, Keith, Kenneth Shepsle, and Barry Weingast. 1987. "Why are American *Political Science Review*, 81: 929-48.
Collie, Melissa, and Joseph Cooper. 1989. "Multiple Referral and the 'New' Committee System in the U.S. House of Representatives." In Lawrence C. Dodd and Bruce Oppenheimer, eds., *Congress Reconsidered*, 4th Ed. Washington: CQ Press.
Smith. 1988. "An Essay on Sequence, Position, Goals, and Committee Power." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 151-76.
Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*.

Member Roll Calls, Behavior, and Ideology

February 22nd

Analyzing Roll Call Votes

Required: Kingdon, John W. 1988. *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*.

Matthews, Donald R., and James A. Stimson. 1975. *Yeas and Nays: Normal Decision-Making in the U.S. House of Representatives*.
Weisberg et al. 1999. Part VII: Legislative Voting Decisions.

Recommended:

Weisberg, Herbert F. 1978.
Poole, Keith, and Howard Rosenthal. 1991. "On Dimensionalizing Roll Call Votes in the U.S. Congress." *American Journal of Political Science*. 29.
Groseclose, Tim, Steven Levitt, and James Snyder. 1999. "Comparing Interest Group Scores Across Time and Chambers: Adjusted ADA Scores for the U.S. Congress." *American Political Science Review*. 93

February 29th

Problems with Roll Call Votes and Alternative Approaches

Required: Hall, Richard. *Participation in Congress*.
VanDoren. 1990. "Can We Learn the Causes of Congressional Decisions from Roll Call Data?" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 15.
King, David, and Zeckhauser. 1997. "A Vote Options Model of Congress: Winning by a Little, Losing by a Lot." Working paper.
Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Laura W. Arnold, and Christopher J. W. Zorn. 1997. "The Strategic Timing of Position Taking in Congress: A Study of the North American Free Trade Agreement." *American Political Science Review*. 91.

Recommended: Krehbiel, Keith. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*.

Congress in the Institutional System

March 7th

Required: Arnold, R. Douglas. 1979. *Congress and the Bureaucracy*.
Dodd, Lawrence C., and Richard L. Schott. 1979. *Congress and the Administrative State*.
Bond, Jon R., and Richard Fleisher. 1990. *The President in the Legislative Arena*.

Recommended: Bawn, Kathleen. 1995. Political Control Versus Expertise: Congressional Choices About Administrative Procedures. *American Political Science Review*. 62-73.
McCubbins, Mathew, and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. Congressional Overnight Overlooked: Police Patrols vs. Fire Alarms. *American Journal of Political Science*, 28: 165-179.
Edwards, George C., II. 1985. Measuring Presidential Success in Congress: Alternative Approaches." *Journal of Politics*. 47.
Cameron, Charles. 1996. "Presidential Reputation, Vetoes, and Bargaining." Typescript.
McCubbins, Noll, and Weingast. 1987. Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. 3: 243-77.

Papers

The term paper for the semester should be a critical bibliography of congressional research in one of the following areas:

Recruitment and careers
Voting in congressional elections
Money in congressional elections
Congressional leadership
Staff
Committees
Structure and Procedure
Norms
Coalitions
Voting
Historical Research
Presidential relations and influence
Constitutional issues and separation of power
Congressional oversight
Congressional influence on policy
Congressional budgeting

The following **deadlines** will be of interest:

January 28 th	1-2 page statement of topic you will be examining and questions you have regarding it.
February 11 th	Preliminary list of references
March 10 th	Paper due

Two Important Considerations (inserted here at request of OSU lawyers):

Academic Honesty. 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 of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disability. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, in a timely manner. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.