

2013

PSCI 255--U.S Congress

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Clark University
Political Science 255: U.S. Congress
Office: 308 Jefferson Academic Center
Office Hours: Office Hours: M W Th 10-11:30am

Fall 2013
Professor: Mark C. Miller
Office Phone: 508-793-7233
Other hours by appointment

Required Books:

Davidson, Oleszek, and Lee. Congress and Its Members, 14th edition. 2013. CQ Press.
Referred to as "Text".

Dodd and Oppenheimer, Congress Reconsidered, 10th edition. 2013. CQ Press.
Referred to as "Reader".

Baker, Ross. House and Senate, 4th edition. 2008. Norton.

Levine, Bertram J. The Art of Lobbying. 2009. CQ Press.

Fenno, Richard. Challenge of Congressional Representation. 2013. Harvard.

Jacobson, Gary. The Politics of Congressional Elections, 8th ed. 2013. Pearson Longman.

Sinclair, Barbara. Unorthodox Lawmaking, 4th edition. 2012. CQ Press.

All books are available at the university bookstore and on reserve at Goddard Library.

Level of Course: This is an upper level American politics course which will examine various aspects of the functions and politics of the U.S. Congress. This course assumes information learned in Intro to Amer Govt (Political Science 050).

<u>Exams and Grading:</u>	Position Paper for Simulation	10%
	Committee Simulation Participation	15%
	In Class Midterm	20%
	Research Paper	25%
	2 Hour Final Examination	30%

EXPECTATIONS of STUDENTS: In order to get their money's worth and have fun with this class, students should want to work hard and think hard. Thus I assume all students will always attend class and complete all reading and paper assignments on time. There will be a 5 points per day penalty for any late papers. Students must contact the professor before the due date concerning any late papers or problems with exams. No electronics in class without permission.

Class participation and attendance will weigh heavily in deciding borderline grades. Make-up exams or will be given quite rarely. I only respond to email during normal business hours. I often respond to voicemails more quickly than email.

Reading and Other Assignments:

Introduction and the Dual Nature of Congress – Aug 26

Text: Chpt 1

The Legislative Process – Aug 29

Text: Chpt 8

Reserve Reading: Islam in Two Americas

Reserve Reading: In Congress, Gridlock and Harsh Consequences

Organization, Structure, and Staffing of Cong – Sept 5, 9

Text: Chpt 2 and pp. 122-129

Reader: Chpt 18

Reserve Reading: Congressman Pushes Staff Hard, or Out the Door

Reserve Reading: Deal Keeps U.S. Health Care Contribution for Congress

Reserve Reading: Higher Costs Seen for Some in Congress on Health Plans

House-Senate Differences – Sept 12, 16

Text: Chpt 3

Baker: **ALL**

Reader: Chpts 1, 2

Reserve Reading: At the 11th Hour, a Languid Congress

Reserve Reading: An Unusual Feat in Congress: Student Loan Bill Breezes On

Reserve Reading: Polar Opposites Test Senate GOP

Parties, Leadership, and Ideology – Sept 19, 23

Text: Chpt 6

Reader: Chpts 6, 7

Reserve Reading: Lawmaker Finds New Realities in Return to Congress

Reserve Reading: A Lesson for Bob Dole: Old Rules No Longer Apply

Reserve Reading: Who Owns the GOP?

Interest Groups and Lobbying – Sept 26

Text: Chpt 13

Levine: **All**

Reserve Reading: Many D.C. Think Tanks Now Players in Partisan Wars

Reserve Reading: Washington's Robust Market for Attacks, Half-Truths

Reserve Reading: Keeping Score

Representation Theory – Sept 30

Text: Chpt 5

Reader: Chpt 3

Constituents, Constituencies, & Homestyles – Oct 3, 7

Fenno: **ALL**

Reserve Reading: Turning the Political Map into a Partisan Weapon

Reserve Reading: Kansas District Shuns Compromise

Midterm Exam -- Tentative Date – Thurs Oct 10

Committees and Subcommittees – Oct 17, 21

Text: Chpt 7

Reader: Chpts 8

Reserve Reading: For Freshmen in the House, Seats of Plenty

Floor Rules & Procedures; Congress Decision-Making – Oct 24, 28, 31

Text: Chpts 8, 9

Reader: Chpt 9, 10, 17

Sinclair: **ALL**

Reserve Reading: Austerity is Here to Stay

Special Talk: Sarah Binder from Brookings Institution, Monday Oct 28

Domestic Policy-Making, Taxes, and Budgets – Nov 4

Text: Chpt 14

Reader: Chpts 13, 14

Reserve Reading: As Works Flood In, Nation's Library Treads Water

Reserve Reading: Tax Lobbyists Help Businesses Reap Windfalls

Reserve Reading: It's Not Process; It's Politics

Position Papers for Simulation due Monday 11

Elections and Campaigns – Nov 7, 11, 14

Text: Chpts 3, 4

Reader: Chpts 4, 5

Jacobson: **ALL**

Committee Simulation -- Tentative Date – Wed Nov 13, Thurs Nov 14, or Fri Nov 15

Congress, the President, and Foreign Policy – Nov 18, 21

Text: Chpts 10, 15

Reader: Chpt 15

Reserve Reading: America, Spooked

Congress and the Bureaucracy – Nov 25

Text: Chpt 11

Reader: Chpt 12

Reserve Reading: GOP Presses EPA Pick with 1,000 Questions

Congress and the Courts – Dec 2, 5

Text: Chpt 12

Reader: Chpt 11

Reserve Reading: Chapter 19 from Miller, Exploring Judicial Politics.

Reserve Reading: As Obama, Senate Collide, Courts Caught Short

Research Paper on policy due Thursday Dec 5

Reform of Congress – Dec 9

Text: Chpt 16

Reader: Chpt 16

Final Examination – Tuesday Dec 17 from 8-10am