This course is designed to provide students with a broad introduction to the state of knowledge on legislative politics with a particular emphasis on the United States Congress. Our concentration will be on the functions that legislatures perform in society, as well as those factors, such as legislative institutionalization, integration, and development, that increase the probability that legislative bodies will achieve and maintain stability within a political system. We will also examine the role of individual legislators within the legislature, their capacity as representatives, as well as the behavioral predispositions and institutional constraints that structure both their actions and decisions.

Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to critically read and integrate the required readings, participate actively (and substantively) during class, and execute the required research project on the legislative process. In order to stimulate class discussion and learning, you will be expected to complete the assigned readings before class sessions (I have no problem with calling on people to participate).

**REQUIREMENTS:**

**Texts:** The following texts have been ordered through the Russell Textbook Store and are required for this course:


A course packet of readings is also available on reserve at both the Thomas Cooper Library.

**Assignments and Grading:**

1) Students are to read all required material before class sessions.
2) Examinations: Midterm (20%) and Final (40%)
3) Research Paper (30%)
4) Class Attendance and Participation (10%)

*Students with borderline grades will have their academic fates determined by class participation.*
Undoubtedly, some of you will find the material covered in this class difficult to grasp. The readings, lectures, discussions, and assignments have been compiled to make understanding public opinion an easier task. However, if at any time you feel confused by the material, please feel free to seek my help during office hours or by appointment.

A web page for this class has been established: http://people.cas.sc.edu/gomezbt/coli462.html

**REQUIRED READINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Books</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09 Jan.</td>
<td>About the Course: Legislatures, Politics, and Approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Constitutional Foundations</td>
<td>United States Constitution, Article I (Reserve)</td>
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<td><em>The Federalist Papers</em> #51 (Reserve)</td>
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<td>Montesquieu, <em>The Spirit of the Laws</em> (Reserve)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Constitutional Foundations, cont.</td>
<td>United States Constitution, Article I (Reserve)</td>
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<td><em>The Federalist Papers</em> #51 (Reserve)</td>
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<td>Montesquieu, <em>The Spirit of the Laws</em> (Reserve)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>NO CLASS – <em>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday!</em></td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Legislatures in Comparative Perspective</td>
<td>Lijphart, <em>Patterns of Democracy</em>, Chs. 1-3, 11</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives on Congress</td>
<td>Mayhew, <em>Congress: The Electoral Connection</em> (Reserve)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives on Congress, cont.</td>
<td>Mayhew, <em>Congress: The Electoral Connection</em> (Reserve)</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Legislative Procedures and their Effects</td>
<td>Oleszek, Chs. 3-5 (Reserve)</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 Feb.</td>
<td>Legislative Procedures and their Effects, cont.</td>
<td>Oleszek, Chs. 3-5 (Reserve)</td>
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<td>03</td>
<td>Legislative Procedures and their Effects, cont.</td>
<td>Oleszek, Chs. 3-5 (Reserve)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
06 Congressional Committees: From Committee to Subcommittee Government
  • Davidson and Oleszek, “Committees: Workshops of Congress” (Reserve)
  • Canon and Stewart, “The Evolution of the Committee System in Congress” (Reserve)

08 Congressional Committees: From Committee to Subcommittee Government, cont.
  • Davidson and Oleszek, “Committees: Workshops of Congress” (Reserve)
  • Canon and Stewart, “The Evolution of the Committee System in Congress” (Reserve)

10 Congressional Committees: The Pivot of Power
  • Groseclose and King, “Committee Theories, Reconsidered” (Reserve)

13 Congressional Committees: The Pivot of Power, cont.
  • Groseclose and King, “Committee Theories, Reconsidered” (Reserve)

15 Congressional Committees: A Partisan Era?
  • Aldrich and Rohde, “Congressional Committees in a Partisan Era” (D&O)

17 Congressional Committees: A Partisan Era?, cont.
  • Gordon, “The (Dis)Integration of the House Appropriations Committee...” (D&O)

20 Parties and Legislative Leadership
  • Lijphart, *Democracies*, Ch. 5
  • Smith and Gamm, “The Dynamics of Party Government in Congress” (D&O)

22 Parties and Legislative Leadership, cont.
  • Lijphart, *Democracies*, Ch. 5
  • Smith and Gamm, “The Dynamics of Party Government in Congress” (D&O)

24 Parties and Legislative Leadership, cont.
  • Dodd and Oppenheimer, “A Decade of Republican Control...” (D&O)
  • Schickler and Pearson, “The House Leadership in an Era of Partisan Warfare (D&O)

27 MID-TERM EXAMINATION

01 Mar. Representation and Apportionment
  • *Thornburg v. Gingles* (1986) (Website)
  • *Shaw v. Reno* (1993) (Website)

03 Representation and Apportionment, cont.
  • Oppenheimer, “Deep Red and Blue Congressional Districts...” (D&O)
  • Haynie, “African Americans and the New Politics of Inclusion...” (D&O)

06 NO CLASS – *Spring Break !!!*

08 NO CLASS – *Spring Break !!!*
10  NO CLASS – *Spring Break !!!*

13  Legislative Elections
   •  Lijphart, *Democracies*, Ch. 8
   •  Jacobson, *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, Ch. 1

15  Legislative Elections, cont.
   •  Jacobson, *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, Ch. 2-8

17  Legislative Elections, cont.
   •  Jacobson, *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, Ch. 2-8
   •  Erikson and Wright, “Voters, Candidates, and Issues…” (D&O)

20  The Legislator - Constituency Relationship
   •  Fenno, *Home Style*

22  The Legislator - Constituency Relationship, cont
   •  Fenno, *Home Style*

24  The Legislator - Constituency Relationship, cont
   •  Fenno, *Home Style*
   •  Fiorina, “‘Keystone’ Reconsidered” (D&O)

27  Legislative Voting Behavior
   •  Kingdon, “Models of Legislative Voting” (Reserve)

29  Interest Groups: Triangles and Networks
   •  Gais, Peterson, and Walker, “Interest Groups, Iron Triangles, and Representative Institutions in American National Government” (Reserve)

31  Interest Groups: Follow the Money
   •  Herrnson, “The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act and Congressional Elections” (D&O)

03 Apr.  Interest Groups: Follow the Money, cont.
   •  Herrnson, “The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act and Congressional Elections” (D&O)

05  The Budgetary Process
   •  Lecture (Notes Available On-line)

07  Legislative - Executive Relations: The Politics of Divided Government
   •  Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, Chs. 6-7
   •  Binder, “Congress, the Executive, and the Production of Public Policy: United We Govern?” (Reserve)

10  Legislative - Executive Relations: Balance of Power?
   •  Cooper, “From Congressional to Presidential Preeminence...” (D&O)
12  Legislative - Executive Relations: The Nomination Process
   •  Binder and Maltzman, “Congress and the Politics of Judicial Appointments” (D&O)

14  Legislative - Executive Relations: Oversight and the Veto
   •  Aberbach, *Keeping a Watchful Eye*, Ch. 2 (Reserve)
   •  Rohde and Simon, “Presidential Vetoes and Congressional Response: A Study of Institutional Conflict” (Reserve)

17  Legislative Reform
   •  Cutler, “To Form a Government” (Reserve)
   •  Petracca, Bailey, and Smith, “Proposals for Constitutional Reform: An Evaluation of the Committee on the Constitutional System” (Reserve)
   •  Dodd, “Re-Envisioning Congress...” (D&O)

19  Legislative Reform, cont.
   •  Cutler, “To Form a Government” (Reserve)
   •  Petracca, Bailey, and Smith, “Proposals for Constitutional Reform: An Evaluation of the Committee on the Constitutional System” (Reserve)
   •  Dodd, “Re-Envisioning Congress...” (D&O)

21  NO CLASS – Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association

24  LAST DAY OF CLASS – Final Thoughts and Review for Final Examination
   •  Hibbing and Larimer, “What the American Public Wants Congress to Be” (D&O)

27  Final Examination – Friday, 9:00 a.m. - Noon