

Syllabus for PS 3102, Section 1
The U.S. Congress
Spring 2017

Location:

TR 3:30–4:45pm, 140 Schaeffer Hall

Professor: Bryce J. Dietrich

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Office Hours: T 3:30–4:45pm, and by appointment

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Office Hours: W 12:20-3:20PM, and by appointment

Readings: Most of the readings for this class are from the following books:

- *Congress and Its Members*, Roger H. Davidson, Walter J. Oleszek, Frances E. Lee, and Erik Shickler, Fourteenth Edition, ISBN 9781452239958
- *Congress Reconsidered*, Lawrence C. Dodd and Bruce I. Oppenheimer, Eleventh Edition, ISBN 9781506328782

Other readings will be posted on ICON, including those from *The Politics of Congressional Elections* and *The Electoral Connection*. If you do not see a reading you need, please let me know.

Material to be Covered: This course will explore a variety of topics related to Congress and its members. We will begin with an overview of the modern Congress, then we will focus on congressional elections. These are important because they establish an important connection between representatives and their constituents, something explored in David Mayhew's seminal work. Once we have covered these external forces, we will move inside congress. Here, we will discuss the intricacies of legislative process, focusing most of our efforts on congressional committees and party politics. With that said, Congress does not exist in isolation. Instead, it interacts with other institutions, both formal (executive branch) and informal (bureaucracy). We will deal with these relationships at the end of the semester. You should end the semester with both a better understanding of and appreciation for this uniquely important institution.

Quizzes: There will be an online quiz every Friday. Once posted, you will have one week to complete the quiz. Most quizzes will have ten items concerning the week's readings and lectures. If you have done the reading and attended class, you should do fine. In calculating your final course grade, I will drop your lowest quiz grade. The first quiz will be posted on January 27th.

Midterm and Final Exam: Each student will complete a midterm and final exam. In these larger exams, you will be asked to demonstrate your competence of the readings and lectures for approximately half of the semester. More specifically, the midterm exam will cover all the material prior to the date of the midterm. The final exam will cover all the material between the date of the midterm. Please view each exam as a way for you to demonstrate your substantive knowledge of course material. We will be discussing these exams throughout the semester. The final exam will be held during finals week. We will announce the specific date and location once that information becomes available.

Participation and Short Assignments: Students are expected to participate in class. This means students should have finished all the assigned readings before class and be an active participant in discussion. Additionally, there may be occasional short writing assignments. Each short assignment will be posted one week in advance of the due date. Your final participation grade (including the short assignments) will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Journal Groups: Any student can set up a reading group for a given week. In this group, the student will choose an academic journal article related to Congress. These articles must be approved during the TA's office hours. If approved, they will post the citation on Blackboard, plus the time and location of their meeting. For doing this, the host will receive extra credit. Those attending will also receive extra credit. We will discuss the specifics in class.

Absences: Regular attendance is expected. However, attendance will not be taken. With that said, it is difficult to participate when you are not here, meaning if you consistently miss class, your absences may affect your participation grade.

Grading:

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes	30%
Class Participation	10%

Scale:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	63-66.99%
D-	60-62.99%
F	0-59.99%

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: Late work will not be accepted and no make-up exams will be given. There should be no problems meeting the expectations of the course. All the due dates are given, and I will make sure to give you plenty of notice ahead of time.

Administrative Home: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Electronic Communication: University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities: The University of Iowa is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (which include but are not limited to mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related conditions). A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student,

instructor, and SDS. See <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/> for information.

Academic Honesty: All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies: The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint: Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. (**Wenfang Tang, 335-2358**) Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

Understanding Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather: In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.

Calendar The calendar below gives the dates of exams and other important deadlines for the course. Readings should be completed **prior** to the start of class. This calendar is subject to change. Any changes will be announced and posted on Icon.

Monday 16 Jan Week 1: Introduction I
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No Class

Wednesday 18 Jan **Welcome and Introductions**
Davidson et al., Ch. 1

Monday 23 Jan Week 2: Modern Congress
The Evolution of the U.S. House
Davidson et al., Ch. 2

Wednesday 25 Jan **The Evolution of the U.S. Senate**
Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 1

- Monday 30 Jan Week 3: Congressional Elections I
Congressional Districts
 Jacobson, Ch. 2
- Wednesday 1 Feb **Congressional Candidates**
 Jacobson, Ch. 3
- Monday 6 Feb Week 4: Congressional Elections II
Congressional Campaigns
 Jacobson, Ch. 4
- Wednesday 8 Feb **Congressional Voters**
 Jacobson, Ch. 5
- Monday 13 Feb Week 5: Partisanship
Party Polarization
 Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 5
- Wednesday 15 Feb **Partisan Gerrymandering**
David Daley
- Monday 20 Feb Week 6: Electoral Connection
Mayhew I
 Mayhew, Ch. 2
- Wednesday 22 Feb **Mayhew II**
 Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 4

Monday 27 Feb Week 7: Congressional Committees
Committees I
Davidson et al., Ch. 7

Wednesday 1 Mar **Committees II**
Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 2

Monday 6 Mar Week 8: Midterm Exam
Midterm Review
No Readings

Wednesday 8 Mar **Midterm Exam**
No Readings

	<u>Week 9</u>
Monday 13 Mar	Spring Break <i>No Class</i>
Wednesday 15 Mar	Spring Break <i>No Class</i>
	<u>Week 10: Passing Legislation</u>
Monday 20 Mar	Legislative Rules Davidson et al., Ch. 8
Wednesday 22 Mar	The Filibuster Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 13
	<u>Week 11: On The Hill</u>
Monday 27 Mar	Legislative Effectiveness Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 11
Wednesday 29 Mar	“Voicing” Interests Dietrich Hayes I Dietrich Hayes II
	<u>Week 12: Off The Hill</u>
Monday 3 Apr	Home Style Davidson et al., Ch. 13
Wednesday 5 Apr	MPSA <i>No Readings</i>

- Week 13: Political Parties
- Monday 10 Apr **Party Leaders**
Davidson et al., Ch. 6
- Wednesday 12 Apr **Party Governance**
Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 7
- Week 14: President
- Monday 17 Apr **Congress v. President I**
Davidson et al., Ch. 10
- Wednesday 19 Apr **Congress v. President II**
Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 15
- Week 15: Courts
- Monday 24 Apr **Congress v. Courts I**
Davidson et al., Ch. 12
- Wednesday 26 Apr **Congress v. Courts II**
Dodd and Oppenheimer, Ch. 16
- Week 16: Choose Your Own Adventure
- Monday 1 May **Choose Your Own Adventure**
TBD
- Wednesday 3 May **Final Exam Review**
No Readings
- Week 17
- Monday 8 May **Final Exam**
TBD
- Wednesday 10 May **Final Exam**
TBD