

PSCI 6331 Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course	PSCI 6331 – Executives, Legislatures, and Public Policy
Professor	Thomas Gray
Term	Fall 2020
Meetings	W 7:00-9:45 (Subject to change due to Coronavirus response); an asynchronous option will be available

Professor Contact Information

Office	GR 2.242
E-mail	thomas.gray1@utdallas.edu
Office Hours	By digital appointment at www.calendly.com/profgray

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

There are no pre-requisites.

Course Description

This class examines current research and a wide range of theories about the U.S. Congress, including: how it functions, how it is organized, how its members behave, how its elections work and impact its functioning, its interaction with other branches, and its historical changes.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Objectives of the course are to understand the role that the legislature and executive institutions of American government play in the public policy process. Students will be familiar with theories about the organization of Congress; the impact of the redistricting revolution; the role that elections play in representation and policymaking. Course assignments aim to develop students' analytical ability and oral presentation skills.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Cox, Gary, and Mathew McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Keith Krehbiel. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Lee, Frances. 2009. *Beyond Ideology*. University of Chicago Press.

Mayhew, David R. 2004. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. 2nd ed. Yale University Press.

Volden, Craig, and Alan E. Wiseman. 2014. *Legislative Effectiveness in the United States Congress: The Lawmakers*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Wawro, Gregory, and Eric Schickler. 2006. *Filibuster: Obstruction and Lawmaking in the U.S. Senate*. Princeton: Princeton.

Suggested Course Materials

Stewart III, Charles. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*. 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

[The following schedule is subject to change. All listed readings are required. Numerous other readings may expand your knowledge of the subject. The professor will provide suggestions upon request.]

August 19: Introduction to the Course and to Congress
This syllabus.

August 26: Competing Theories of Congressional Behavior I – Individual Legislators
Mayhew, David R. 2004. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. 2nd ed. New Haven: Yale University Press.

September 2: Competing Theories of Congressional Behavior II – Operating Within Procedures
Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

September 9: Competing Theories of Congressional Behavior III – Members of Parties
Cox, Gary, and Mathew McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

September 16: Critiquing Existing Theories
Lee, Frances. 2009. *Beyond Ideology*. University of Chicago Press.

September 23: Other Ways of Evaluating Congressional Behavior

Volden, Craig, and Alan E. Wiseman. 2014. *Legislative Effectiveness in the United States Congress: The Lawmakers*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

September 30: Measurement, Data, and Researching Congressional Politics

Bonica, Adam. 2014. "Mapping the Ideological Marketplace." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(2): 367-87.

Clinton, Joshua, Simon Jackman, and Doug Rivers. 2004. "The Statistical Analysis of Roll Call Data." *American Political Science Review* 98(2): 355-70.

Clinton, Joshua D. and John S. Lapinski. 2006. "Measuring Legislative Accomplishment, 1877-1994." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(1): 232-49.

Voteview.com

Assignment Due: Early-Semester Paper

October 7: Committees

Berry, Christopher R., and Anthony Fowler. 2016. "Cardinals or clerics? Congressional committees and the distribution of pork." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3): 692-708.

Hall, Andrew B., and Kenneth A. Shepsle. 2014. "The Changing Value of Seniority in the US House: Conditional Party Government Revised." *Journal of Politics* 76(1): 98-113.

Hammond, Ben, and Leah Rosenstiel. 2020. "Measuring the Influence of Political Actors on the Federal Budget." *American Political Science Review* 114(2): 603-608.

Krehbiel, Keith. 1990. "Are Congressional Committees Composed of Preference Outliers?" *American Political Science Review* 84(1): 149-63.

October 14: Rules and Procedure

Wawro, Gregory, and Eric Schickler. 2006. *Filibuster: Obstruction and Lawmaking in the U.S. Senate*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

October 21: Congressional Elections & Representation I

Gerber, Alan. 1998. "Estimating the Effect of Campaign Spending on Senate Election Outcomes Using Instrumental Variables." *American Political Science Review* 92(2): 401-11.

Hayes, Danny and Jennifer L. Lawless. 2015. "A Non-Gendered Lens? Media, Voters, and Female Candidates in Contemporary Congressional Elections." *Perspectives on Politics* 13(1): 95-118.

Kanthak, Kristin, and Jonathan Woon. 2015. "Women Don't Run? Election Aversion and Candidate Entry." *American Journal of Political Science* 59(3): 596-612.

Nyhan, Brendan, and Jacob M. Montgomery. 2015. "Connecting the Candidates: Consultant Networks and the Diffusion of Campaign Strategy in American Congressional Elections." *American Journal of Political Science* 59(2): 292-308.

Assignment Due: Final Paper Proposal

October 28: Congressional Elections & Representation II

Grimmer, Justin, Solomon Messing, and Sean Westwood. 2012. "How Words and Money Cultivate a Personal Vote: The Effect of Legislator Credit Claiming on Constituent Credit Allocation." *American Political Science Review* 106(4): 703-19.

Hall, Andrew B. 2015. "What Happens When Extremists Win Primaries?" *American Political Science Review* 109(1): 18-42.

Kalla, Joshua L., and David E. Broockman. 2016. "Campaign Contributions Facilitate Access to Congressional Officials: A Randomized Field Experiment." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3): 545-558.

McCarty, Nolan, Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2009. "Does Gerrymandering Cause Polarization?" *American Journal of Political Science* 53(3): 666-680.

November 4: Separation of Powers I

Gailmard, Sean, and John W. Patty. "Slackers and Zealots: Civil Service, Policy Discretion, and Bureaucratic Expertise." *American Journal of Political Science* 51(4): 873-89.

Lowande, Kenneth. 2018. "Who Polices the Administrative State?" *American Political Science Review* 112(4): 874-90.

McCubbins, Mathew D., and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols Versus Fire Alarms." *American Journal of Political Science* 28(1): 165-79.

Clark, Tom S. 2009. "The Separation of Powers, Court Curbing, and Judicial Legitimacy." *American Journal of Political Science* 53(4): 971-89.

November 11: Separation of Powers II

Cameron, Charles M., Jonathan P. Kastellec, and Jee-Kwang Park. 2013. "Voting for Justices: Change and Continuity in Confirmation Voting 1937-2010." *Journal of Politics* 75(2): 283-99.

Gray, Thomas, Jeffery A. Jenkins, and Phillip B. K. Potter. 2020. "The Direct Election of Senators and the Emergency of the Modern Presidency." *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Howell, William G., and Jon C. Rogowski. 2013. "War, the Presidency, and Legislative Voting Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science* 57(1): 150-66.

Lowande, Kenneth, and Jon Rogowski. Forthcoming. "Presidential Unilateral Power." *Annual Review of Political Science*.

November 18: Congress and History

Farhang, Sean, and Ira Katznelson. "The Southern Imposition: Congress and Labor in the New Deal and Fair Deal." *Studies in American Political Development* 19(1): 1-30.

Finocchiaro, Charles J., and Scott A. MacKenzie. 2018. "Making Washington Work: Legislative Entrepreneurship and the Personal Vote from the Gilded Age to the Great Depression." *American Journal of Political Science* 62: 113-131.

Gamm, Gerald, and Kenneth Shepsle. 1989. "Emergence of Legislative Institutions: Standing Committees in the House and Senate, 1810-1825." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 14(1): 39-66.

Gordon, Sanford C., and Hannah K. Simpson. 2018. "The Birth of Pork: Local Appropriations in America's First Century." *American Political Science Review* 112 (3): 564-79.

November 25: Student Presentations

Assignment Due: Final Paper and Student Presentation

Grading Policy

Course grades will be based on the following formula:

Class Participation or Substitute:	25%
Reading Critiques and Questions:	20%
Early-Semester Paper:	15%
Final Paper & Presentation:	40%

Course & Instructor Policies

Class attendance is not required. However, you are responsible for observing recorded class events if you do not attend them. You are responsible for all announcements and information given in class – which is available in the recordings.

Weekly Responses and Questions: Each week, you should submit a response to one or more of that week’s readings, of approximately one page. At the end of your response, you should write two discussion questions about the week’s readings. These questions will be the basis for class discussion and will be used to guide how we address the material each week. These responses and questions are due to my e-mail by noon on the day of class.

Early-Semester Paper: You will write a short paper of 5-7 pages applying the theoretical works we read in the early weeks of the semester to understanding a recent or current situation in Congress. Students will explain how the behavior observed in the recent situation matches and conflicts with the predictions given by theory.

Final Paper: You will write a paper describing an original piece of research you conducted on Congress. The length and details of this paper will vary by the methods and research design chosen. Students will turn in short proposals and meet with the professor, if necessary.

As a rule, no extensions are granted for written work. Unexcused late papers will be penalized one full grade per day. However, in case of an emergency, contact the professor as soon as possible to see if an exception can be made at the discretion of the professor. Documentation will be required of any emergency.

Students should be attentive during class and be prepared to actively participate in each seminar. You are to treat your fellow classmates with respect and are expected to listen carefully when others are speaking. Disruptive students will be asked to leave and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

This course is taught remotely and students will not be required to make any in-person attendance at any location to complete the course.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.
July 13, 2020*