

Political Science 254: Seminar on Congress

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In this course, we will intensively review the literature on Congress. Most of our readings and discussions will focus on the internal workings of Congress--the committee system, the party system, how members make roll call voting decisions, etc. We will also discuss how congress has changed over time and some questions about representation. We will not cover topics such as congressional-bureaucratic relations or congressional elections. The course will consist of a mixture of short lectures and longer open discussions of class readings.

The course requirements are: (1) a short [5-10 pp], critical analysis of some aspect of one of the books—due at the class meeting in which we discuss the book; (2) a term paper, which may be either a research paper or a critical review and synthesis of the literature; and (3) participation in class discussions. Please note that the last opportunity to write the short paper is in the 8th week of class. The critical analysis papers will be assigned to students so that each book receives roughly equal attention. The first paper will be worth 25%; the second will be worth 60% each; participation will be worth 15%. I expect you to come to class having completed all the assigned readings for that meeting.

All of the readings are on reserve at the library. A collection of the articles is available at the Alternative Copy Shop, and the following books are available at the UCSB Bookstore:

Douglas Arnold, *The Logic of Congressional Action*
 Gary Cox & Mathew McCubbins, *Setting the Agenda*
 Chris Deering and Steve Smith, *Committees in Congress*, 3rd ed.
 Richard Hall, *Participation in Congress*
 Keith Krehbiel, *Pivotal Politics*
 Eric Schickler, *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress*
 Michelle Swers, *The Difference Women Make: The Policy Impact of Women in Congress*

Readings marked with an asterisk are recommended. The following abbreviations are used for journals:

APSR: American Political Science Review JOP: Journal of Politics
 * : Recommended reading

Weekly Readings

1. Introduction

If you did not take an undergraduate course on Congress, you might consider buying a used copy of a basic text on Congress. You need not worry about getting the most current edition because Congress changes slowly. Here are some well known textbooks:

- * Roger Davidson & Walter Oleszek, *Congress and Its Members*, 12/e
- * Walter Oleszek, *Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process*, 8/3
- * Steven Smith, *The American Congress*, 5/e

2. Congressional Committees

Christopher Deering and Steven Smith, *Committees in Congress*, 3rd ed

- * Richard Fenno, *Congressmen in Committees*
- * Jonathan Katz and Brian Sala. 1995. "Careerism, Committee Assignments, and the Electoral Connection" *American Political Science Review*.
- * Kenneth Shepsle, *The Giant Jigsaw Puzzle*

3. Power and Influence in Congressional Committees - 1

Kenneth Shepsle & Barry Weingast, "The Institutional Foundations of Committee Power," *APSR*, 81:85-104 (March '87)

Keith Krehbiel, K. Shepsle and B. Weingast, "Why are Congressional Committees Powerful?" [An exchange] *APSR*, 81:929-45 (Sep '87)

C. Lawrence Evans, "Influence in Congressional Committees." In Christopher Deering (ed), *Congressional Politics*

Tim Groseclose and David King, "Committee Theories Reconsidered." In Lawrence Dodd and Bruce Oppenheimer, eds., *Congress Reconsidered*, 7th ed

Daniel McCool, "Subgovernments as Determinants of Political Viability." *Political Science Quarterly*, 105 (1990): 269-29

Daniel McCool, "The Subsystem Family of Concepts: A Critique and a Proposal." *Political Research Quarterly*, 51 (1998):551-70

- * Nicol Rae & Colton Campbell, *New Majority or Old Minority*, 4-7
- * Thomas Gais, et al., "Interest Groups, Iron Triangles and Representative Institutions in American National Government." *British Journal of Political Science* 14 (1984): 161-85
- * Paul Sabatier and Hank Jenkins-Smith, ed., *Policy Change and Learning: An Advocacy Coalition Approach* (1993), chap 2

4. Power and Influence in Congressional Committees - 2

Richard Hall, *Participation in Congress*

- * Richard Hall & Frank Wayman, "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *APSR*, 84 (Sep '90):797-820

5. Party Leadership

Cox and McCubbins, *Setting the Agenda* (reviewed Dec 2006 *Perspectives on Politics*)

- * Cox and McCubbins, *Legislative Leviathan*
- * Charles O. Jones, "Joseph G. Cannon and Howard W. Smith: An Essay on the Limits of Leadership ..." *Journal of Politics*, 30:617-46 (1968)
- * John Kingdon, *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*
- * Kenneth Shepsle and Barry Weingast. 1995 "Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions," in Kenneth Shepsle and Barry Weingast, eds, *Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions*
- * David Rohde, *Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House*
- * John Aldrich and David Rohde, "The Logic of Conditional Party Government: Revisiting the Electoral Connection" in *Congress Reconsidered*
- * Robert Repetto, ed., *Punctuated Equilibrium and the Dynamics of U.S. Environmental Policy*

6. Pivotal Politics

Keith Krehbiel, *Pivotal Politics*

Steven Smith, "Positive Theories of Congressional Parties." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 25: 193-215.

Sarah Anderson, "Pivots and Bills: Testing Models of Appropriations." Unpublished ms.

* John Kingdon, *Congressional Voting Decisions?*

* Keith Krehbiel, *Information and Legislative Organization*

* Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal *Congress : A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*

* James M. Snyder, Jr. and Tim Groseclose, 2000. "Estimating Party Influence in Congressional Roll-Call Voting" *AJPS* 44: 193-211

* Gary Cox and Keith Poole, 2002. "On Measuring Partisanship in Roll-Call Voting" *AJPS*

7. Presidential-Congressional Relations

Charles Cameron, *Veto Bargaining*

* Steven Shull, *Presidential-Congressional Relations*

* James Sundquist, *The Decline and Resurgence of Congress*

* James Thurber, *Rivals for Power: Presidential-Congressional Relations*

* Samuel Kernell. 1997. *Going Public*.

* Rohde, David, and Dennis M. Simon. 1985. "Presidential Vetoes and Congressional Response: A Study of Institutional Conflict," *AJPS* 29: 397-426

8. Evolution and Change in Congress

Eric Schickler, *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress* (reviewed Sep 2002 *APSR*)

* Joseph Cooper & David Brady, "Institutional Context and Leadership Style: The House from Cannon to Rayburn." *APSR*, 75:411-25

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

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

9. The Electoral Connection

Douglas Arnold, *The Logic of Congressional Action*

* David Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection*

* Morris Fiorina, *Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment*

* Morris Fiorina, 2001. "Keystone Reconsidered" in Lawrence Dodd and Bruce Oppenheimer, eds., *Congress Reconsidered*. 7th ed.

* Lawrence Rothenberg and Mitchell Sanders. 2000. "Severing the Electoral Connection: Shirking in the Contemporary Congress." *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 316-25

10. Representation in Congress

Michelle Swers, *The Difference Women Make: The Policy Impact of Women in Congress*

* Georgia Duerst-Lahti & Rita Mae Kelly, eds. *Gender Power, Leadership, and Governance*

* Sue Thomas, *How Women Legislate*

* Robert Singh, *The Congressional Black Caucus*

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