

POLITICAL SCIENCE 100B: THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS COURSE SYLLABUS

Welcome to POLI 100B: The United States Congress. My name is Andrew Waugh, and I will be your instructor for the quarter. Please take a few minutes to read this syllabus and be sure to ask any questions you might have (aswaugh@ucsd.edu).

In this course, we will learn a great deal about the United States Congress and the members that comprise it. After a brief historical and institutional overview, we will proceed to develop an understanding of Congressional organization and behavior from the bottom-up, starting with the incentives and constraints on individual members as they seek election, continuing to the logic of organization and lawmaking in the House and Senate, and finishing with the strategic interactions between Congress and other elite political actors. Throughout the course, we will emphasize the interaction between *institutions* and *incentives* in the generation and passage of laws.

This is a particularly exciting quarter to be studying Congress, as all 435 House seats and 33 of 100 Senate seats are currently being contested for the upcoming General Election on 6 November 2012. Congressional campaigns are currently in full swing, and their outcomes could dramatically alter the balance of political power in the coming years. In this course, we will learn how these campaigns are run, and how and why the results have a profound impact on public policy.

I am extremely excited and honored to have the opportunity to teach you during these momentous times. If you match my enthusiasm for the material with an enthusiasm to learn and ask questions, we will have an excellent quarter. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our teaching assistant, Paul Schuler, with any questions you may have. And now, on with the syllabus...

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Andrew Waugh

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hours: MW 10:00-11:00am

Teaching Assistant: Paul Schuler

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office: SSB 326

hours: M 12:00-3:00pm

Website: The URL for the course website is:

<http://www.andrewwaugh.com/courses/poli100b>

Please visit the course website often for announcements, syllabus updates, links to required readings, lecture notes, helpful links, and other valuable information. I recommend bookmarking it.

READINGS

Books: There are two books for this course. Both are required. Both are available at the bookstore and from online retailers. Be sure to purchase the correct editions.

- Smith et al. 2011. *The American Congress*, 7th ed. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press
- Sinclair. 2012. *Unorthodox Lawmaking*, 4th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press

Articles: Additional required readings will be available for free via online databases such as JSTOR and Google Scholar.

- <http://www.jstor.org>
- <http://scholar.google.com>

In order to access these articles you will need to be on-campus, or set up a UCSD web proxy on your computer. Instructions for setting up the web proxy are available here:

- <http://blink.ucsd.edu/technology/network/connections/off-campus/proxy/index.html>

I will provide links to these articles from the course website, so remember to check the website regularly. Some additional readings will be scans of book chapters. These will only be available via the course website. Remember to check the website regularly!

ASSIGNMENTS

This course will have three primary assignments: **two take-home midterm examinations** and **one in-class final examination**. These will consist primarily of essay questions. In your responses you will have to demonstrate a functional understanding of course terms and concepts, as well as the ability to apply these terms and concepts to novel situations and contexts.

- **Midterm Examination #1** – Assigned: 10/17, Due: 10/22 – 30% of Grade
- **Midterm Examination #2** – Assigned: 11/14, Due: 11/19 – 30% of Grade
- **Final Examination** – In-class: 12/12 (8:00-11:00AM) – 40% of Grade

The midterms must be turned in *on the due date, at the beginning of class, in hard copy*, with no exceptions. Late midterms will *not* be accepted.

CALENDAR

Below the course calendar is organized by weeks. Each week has a topic and several readings. *All readings are required unless otherwise noted. Readings for each week should be completed by Wednesday of that week*, giving you time to ask any questions you might have in office hours on Wednesday, or in class on Friday. Readings not found in your two textbooks will be linked from the course website.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics, Readings, and Assignments</i>
0 (9/28)*	Introduction - Smith et al.: Chapter 1 - Madison. <i>The Federalist Papers: #10 and #51</i> - <i>The Constitution of the United States</i>
1 (10/1)	The Modern Congress in Historical Context - Smith et al.: Chapter 2 - Sinclair: Chapters 1 and 7 - Polsby. 1968. "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives." <i>APSR</i> 62:1, 144-168.

2 (10/8)	Getting to Congress: Campaigns and Elections - Smith et al.: Chapter 3 - Jacobson. 1989. "Strategic Politicians and the Dynamics of U.S. House Elections, 1946-86." <i>APSR</i> 83:3, 773-793. - Gerber and Morton. 1998. "Primary Election Systems and Representation." <i>JELO</i> 14:2, 304-324.
3 (10/15)	Members and Their Incentives - Smith et al.: Chapter 4 and the Appendix - Fenno. 1977. "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies." <i>APSR</i> 71:3, 883-917 - Canes-Wrone et al. 2002. "Out of Step, out of Office." <i>APSR</i> 96:1, 127-140 <i>Midterm #1 Assigned – 10/17</i>
4 (10/22)	Legislative Organization I: Political Parties - Smith et al.: Chapter 5 - Aldrich. 1995. <i>Why Parties?</i> Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 1 and 2. - Heberlig et al. 2006. "The Price of Leadership." <i>JoP</i> 68:4, 992-1005. <i>MIDTERM #1 DUE – 10/22</i>
5 (10/29)	Legislative Organization II: Committees - Smith et al.: Chapter 6 - Sinclair: Chapters 2 and 3 - Shulock. 1999. "The Paradox of Policy Analysis" <i>JPAM</i> 18:2, 226-244 - Aldrich and Rohde. 1999. "Congressional Committees in a Partisan Era" in Dodd and Oppenheimer eds. <i>Congress Reconsidered, 8th ed.</i> Washington, DC: CQ Press, 249-270.
6 (11/5)	Lawmaking I: Congressional Rules - Smith et al.: Chapter 7 - Sinclair: Chapters 4 and 5 - Cox. 2000. "On the Effects of Legislative Rules." <i>LSQ</i> 25:2, 169-192
7 (11/14)*	Lawmaking II: The Floor and Voting - Smith et al.: Chapter 8 - Sinclair: Chapter 6 - Gailmard and Jenkins. 2007. "Negative Agenda Control in the Senate and House." <i>JoP</i> 69:3, 689-700 <i>Midterm #2 Assigned – 11/14</i>

8 (11/19)*	Congress and the President/Courts - Smith et al.: Chapters 9 and 10 - Sinclair: Chapter 9 - McCubbins and Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked." <i>AJPS</i> 28:1, 164-179. <i>MIDTERM #2 DUE – 11/19</i>
9 (11/26)	Congress and Lobbyists/Interest Groups - Smith et al.: Chapter 11 - Sinclair: Chapter 8 - Ainsworth. 1997. "The Role of Legislators in the Determination of Interest Group Influence." <i>LSQ</i> 22:4, 517-533
10 (12/3)	The Future of Congressional Politics - Smith et al.: Chapter 12 - Sinclair: Chapter 10 - Additional reading TBA (probably post-election)
FINAL (12/12)	FINAL EXAMINATION (8:00-11:00AM)

* No class MW in Week 0. No class M in Week 7. No class F in Week 8.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind.