

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

School of Arts and Humanities

POLS620

Legislatures and Legislative Behavior

3 Credit Hours

Length of Course: 8 Weeks

Prerequisite(s): None

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course focuses on legislative structure and decision-making. Through reading, studying, and reflecting upon legislatures, legislators, and legislative processes, students will examine the U.S. legislative structure and conduct an analysis of comparative legislative behavior.

Course Scope

This course will investigate all aspects of Congress: why certain members of Congress are elected for several terms, public perception of the body, how Congress relates to other branches of government, how legislative priorities are set, how legislation is passed or defeated, and the role that lobbyists play. The US system is then contrasted against parliamentary systems.

Course Objectives

- CO-1:** Assess the U.S. Congress's representation of the decentralized, particularized, provincial, diverse pattern of American society.
- CO-2:** Evaluate the workings of the Congressional committee system.
- CO-3:** Evaluate the constituent service functions of Congress.
- CO-4:** Analyze the making of laws, tracing how the ideas of individual members of Congress are translated into laws.
- CO-5:** Evaluate the relationship between the President and Congress.
- CO-6:** Analyze the role lobbyists play in Congress.

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CO-7: Assess the primary differences between a presidential and a parliamentary system.

CO-8: Critique the administrative oversight functions of Congress.

Course Delivery Method

This masters-level course will offer the student a highly interactive virtual classroom. Each week's lesson will have a course announcement, assigned readings, an assignment, based on either course readings, Internet research or supplemental readings provided by the instructor, and discussion topic relevant to the present time. The course will provide the student with the necessary knowledge of the workings of legislatures, with a primary focus on the U. S. Congress. Much of the course will give the student the opportunity to assume the role of a legislator, learning structures, rules, processes, fund-raising techniques and electoral strategies by working with them in a hands-on fashion. Traditional demands of high-level academic work, such as citation and familiarity with various authors and their theories will be integrated into the process of role-playing. The student will be expected to fully participate in classroom discussions with the instructor and with other students.

Course Materials

1. Davidson, et al, *Congress and Its Members*, Fifteenth Edition, ISBN 978-1-4833-8888-5, eBook available at www.cqpress.com.

2. Mr. Cao Goes to Washington (DVD), B000F9UEK2-New Day Films, www.NewDay.com ISBN: 978-1-57448-119-8.

In addition to purchase option by New Day Films, there is a rental option at: <http://vimeo.com/ondemand/mrcaofilm/53708409>

3. Additional readings on topics of current relevance.

Evaluation Procedures

Grades for this course will be based upon two grading instruments; Forums, a research paper comparing the US system with a parliamentary system, and a Final essay exam. There are eight weekly discussion questions that are provided in the **Forum**. The student will reply to the posting of at least 2 other students and provide citations to sources to receive full credit for Forum assignments. The grade scale for each of the evaluation tools is provided below:

Grade Instruments: Points

Forum Discussions (8)	60%
Research Paper	20%
Final Essay Exam	20%

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Submission of Assignments:

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due by SUNDAY Evening at 11:55 p.m. ET (Eastern Time) as outlined in the Course Outline below. Your initial post to each forum is due by **Friday** Evening at 11:55 p.m. ET, with replies due on Sunday.

Late assignments will be severely penalized and are strongly discouraged unless prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor due to extenuating circumstances. Lateness penalties are assessed thusly. For each day that the assignment is late, the assignment is penalized 5% of the maximum grade. For example, if a forum assignment with a maximum grade of 100 points is a day late, then the final grade is reduced by 5 points. On the second day, the penalty would be 10 points, or 10%. Repeated late submissions may result in failure of the course.

Course Outline					
<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Learning Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>	
1	The Two Congresses; Getting to Washington	CO-1	Davidson: Chapters 1, 2, 3 Lesson Notes	<i>Forum:</i> Week 1	
2	Campaigns and Elections	CO-1 CO-3	Davidson: Chapter 4 Lesson Notes Film: Mr. Cao Goes to Washington	<i>Forum:</i> Week 2 Research Paper assigned; Part A Due	
3	Dual Role of Legislators; Parties and Committees	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3	Davidson: Chapters 5, 6, and 7 Lesson Notes	<i>Forum:</i> Week 3	
4	Rules, Procedures, Deliberation	CO-4	Davidson: Chapters 8 and 9 Lesson Notes	<i>Forum:</i> Week 4 Research Paper Part B Due	

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5	Congress and the President, the Bureaucracy and the Courts	CO-5	Davidson: Chapters 10, 11 and 12 Lesson Notes	<i>Forum:</i> Week 5	
6	Congress and Special Interests	CO-6	Davidson: Chapters 13 and 14 Lesson Notes	<i>Forum:</i> Week 6 Research Paper Part C Due	
7	Research a European Legislature and Compare it to Congress	CO-7	Independent Research Lesson Notes	<i>Forum:</i> Week 7	
8	Oversight, Interaction among branches, and Comprehensive Exam	CO-1 through CO-8	Davidson: Chapters 15 and 16 Lesson Notes	Comprehensive Exam <i>Forum:</i> Week 8	

Plagiarism Penalty: The instructor has the option of awarding any assignment that has been found to have been plagiarized a zero. Subsequent violations may result in an F in the class.

Attention Air Force Students: Please read the following important information:

AIR FORCE GRADE POLICY-Not Accepting Grade Changes

(Please read the Air Force memo below)

It is important to let Air Force students know to submit any grade appeals or exception extension requests immediately upon the end of a course. If a corrected grade is not submitted within the Air Force deadline, the Air Force will force tuition reimbursement, even if a failing grade has now been changed to a passing grade.

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It is also important that any Air Force students who appeal and receive a grade change from an F send a copy of their updated grade report immediately to milta.reimb@us.af.mil or take a copy into their Education officeto request their grade be updated. Unfortunately the Air Force portal only allows our office the ability to post missing grades or change Incomplete grades in their online portal. We do not have access to change a grade in the AI Portal once a final grade has been submitted.

Academic Services

ONLINE LIBRARY RESEARCH CENTER & LEARNING RESOURCES

The Online Library Resource Center is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Center provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to orc@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

Library Guide

Help from APUS Library:

- ⦿ Request a Library Guide for your course:
(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)
- ⦿ The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

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- ⦿ Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- ⦿ Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.
- ⦿ If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

- ⦿ Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com.

Bibliography

Dye, Thomas R., *Understanding Public Policy*. Boston: Longman, 2011.

Madison, J, Hamilton, A. and Jay, J. *The Federalist Papers*. New York: Penguin Putnam, 1987. [First published in 1788.]

Milkis, Sidney, and Michael Nelson. *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776-200*. 5th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2008.

Strunk, William & White, E.B. *The Elements of Style*, 4th ed. New York, NY: Longman Press, 2000.

Walker, David B., *The Rebirth of Federalism*, 2nd ed. New York: Chatham House Publishers, 2000.