LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
POLI 4035
Spring 2011

Instructor: Dr. K. Bratton
Class Location: 220 Stubbs
Office: 208A Stubbs
Phone: 81912
Office Hours: MWF, 9-11, and by appointment
bratton@lsu.edu

OVERVIEW
This course focuses on the legislative branch of the government. While most of the material focuses on the U.S. Congress, we will at times cover legislative process and politics in state legislatures and in other nations. This course covers representation and electoral politics, parties and leaders, the role of committees in lawmaking and in representation, legislative rules and procedures, legislative decision-making, and the relationship between the legislature and other branches of government. We will devote particular attention to changes over time in legislative elections, decision-making, and process.

GRADING SCALE
A 90-
B 80-89.9
C 70-79.9
D 60-69.9
F Below 60

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Two Midterms, February 24th and March 31st 20%, 20%
   Midterms and Final emphasize short-answer and short essay / identification questions.

2. Cumulative Final 20%
   Final is Friday 5/13, 3:00-5:00 pm
   Midterms and Final emphasize short-answer and short essay / identification questions.

3. In-class or Moodle quizzes (10 total—drop 2) 10%

   In-class quizzes will generally ask students to apply some new reading (a short newspaper article) to course material; moodle quizzes will be short quizzes that ask students about material from the reading. Students must be present to take in-class quizzes; students have one week to complete moodle quizzes (and I will send an email around and announce in class when they are on-line). Lowest two quiz grades will be dropped, and the remainder averaged.

4. Essay 6-7 pages. Topic to be announced. Due April 14th) 15%
   Rewrites allowed for 1/3 letter grade increase (i.e., B+ to A-)

5. Simulation participation 15%
   (5% representative description, 5% summary, 5% participation)
Note: I do not generally allow the use of student laptops in class. If you believe that it is particularly helpful for you to take notes with a laptop, speak with me about this during office hours; arrangements can be made. However, keep in mind that in those cases the laptop must be used for note-taking only.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

*Congress and Its Members, 12th Edition*
Authors: Roger H. Davidson, Walter J. Oleszek, Frances E. Lee
CQ Press
Additional readings will be placed on Moodle.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

January 18th—Introduction & Welcome

January 20th—Congressional History

January 25th—Congressional History
Read: DOL, Chapters 1 and 2
Deadline for dropping courses without receiving “W”

January 27th—Congressional Elections
Read: DOL, Chapter 3

February 1st—Congressional Elections
Read: Posted on Moodle

February 3rd—Congressional Elections
Read: DOL, Chapter 4

February 8th—Hill Styles & Home Styles
Read: DOL, Chapter 5
Additional readings posted on Moodle
3 page paper on representative due

February 10th—Leaders and Parties in Congress
Read: DOL, Chapter 6

February 15th—Leaders and Parties in Congress
Read: Posted on Moodle

February 17th—Committees (Workshops of Congress)
Read: DOL, Chapter 7

February 22nd—Review / Catch Up

February 24th—Midterm I (through Leaders & Parties)

March 1st—Committees (Workshops of Congress)
Read: Posted on Moodle
March 3rd—Congressional Rules & Procedures
   Read: DOL, Chapter 8
   Additional Readings on Moodle

March 8th—Mardi Gras

March 10th—Deliberation in Congress
   Read: DOL, Chapter 9

March 15th—Deliberation in Congress
   Read: Posted on Moodle

March 17th—Congress and the President
   Read: DOL, Chapter 10

March 22nd—Congress and the President
   Read: Posted on Moodle

March 24th—Congress and the Bureaucracy
   Read: DOL, Chapter 11

March 29th—Congress and the Courts
   Read: DOL, Chapter 12

March 31st—Midterm II (through Congress and the President)

April 4th—Last day to drop, last day to request reschedule of final exam if three exams are schedule
   within 24 hours

April 5th—Congress and Organized Interests
   Read: DOL, Chapter 13

April 7th—Congress, Budgets, and Domestic Policymaking
   Read: DOL, Chapter 14

April 12th—Congress and National Security Policies
   Read: DOL, Chapter 15

April 14th—Intro to Simulation.
   Paper Due.

April 19th & April 21st: Spring Break

April 26th, April 28th, May 3rd: Simulation

May 5th: Last day of class, Wrap-Up. Turn in Simulation Material (1-2 page summary) and Paper
   Rewrites.

Final: Friday, May 13th, 3-5 pm