

Fall 9-1-2001

PSC 387.01: Legislative Politics

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

PSc 387 Legislative Politics
Fall 2001
Dr. Laslovich

Office: LA 354
Hrs: T 10-11:00, 1:30-2:30,
W 10-11:00, R 1:30-2:30,
and by app't (4418).

Course Description

Analysis of the structure, processes, and politics of the U.S. Congress. Topics include member-constituent relations, party leadership, the committee system, and House-Senate relations. Case studies will analyze and assess the role of Congress in the policy-making process. Particular emphasis will be placed on the Congressional elections in light of the upcoming 2002 elections.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students should gain an understanding of the legislative process. A complex process, students will be asked to assess the importance of structure, procedure, and personal skills on legislative outcomes.

Texts

The following texts are required reading and are available at the University Bookstore:

Davidson, Roger and Walter Oleszek. Congress and Its Members. 8th edition. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2001,

Herrnson, Paul S. Congressional Elections. 3rd edition. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2000, and

Price, David E. The Congressional Experience. 2nd edition. Boulder: Westview Press, 2000.

Course Requirements - Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Exam 1 (Oct. 2) Topics I-II	20%
Research paper prospectus (Due Oct. 11 in class)	20%
Exam 2 (Nov. 8) Topics III-VI	20%
Research Paper (Due Nov. 27 in class)	20%
Final Exam (Thurs., Dec. 20, 10:10-12:10) Topics VII-IX	20%

NOTE - **ALL** writing assignments must be submitted to complete the course.

- Late papers will not be graded but nonetheless must be submitted.

- A "C" letter grade is required to receive a "passing" mark for the P/NP grading option.

Drop/Add Deadlines

Sept. 24 - Last day to add/drop by Dial Bear and to receive a full refund.

Oct. 15 - Last day to drop/add (no refund).

Dec. 14 - Last day for drop/grade option petitions.

Makeup Exam Policy

Students who are **excused** from a scheduled examination may write a makeup exam. In fairness to all students, the instructor must approve exam absences.

Research Papers

Students select a research topic of their choice. Research paper prospectuses are **DUE Oct. 11 in class**. Please note that this is to be a research paper. Consequently the amount of research undertaken, and the ability to marshal that information effectively, will be crucial in the evaluation of the paper. The paper should range between 10 to 15 double-spaced typed pages.

The Classroom Learning Environment (authored by Dr. Ronald Perrin, Professor of Political Theory)

Wherever the learning process takes place (for example, in the library or the seclusion of one's study) it does so best when there are a minimum of distractions. This requirement poses special challenges for the learning that takes place in the lecture hall or the classroom, where the possibility of distractions is the greatest. In order to establish and maintain a supportive learning environment for my students I will not tolerate the few individuals who might be prone to a) come to class late or leave early, b) carry on private conversations during class, or c) use the lecture hall/classroom as an opportunity to read material, such as the Kaimin, that is not relevant to the subject matter under consideration. The only exception to these conditions concerns students whose work schedules or unanticipated appointments require them to arrive for class late or leave early. In these circumstances I would appreciate knowing of the circumstance before it occurs and, in all such instances, request that students do so as unobtrusively as possible. Thank you.

Lecture Topics and Readings

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| <p>I <u>Introduction – The “Two Congresses”</u>
Davidson and Oleszek, chapters 1 and 2.</p> <p>II <u>Congressional Campaigns and Voter Behavior</u>
Davidson and Oleszek, chapters 3-5.
Herrnson, <u>passim</u>.</p> <p>III <u>Congressional Leaders and Political Parties</u>
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 6.</p> <p>IV <u>Committees, Rules and Procedures</u>
Davidson and Oleszek, chapters 7 and 8.</p> <p>V <u>Congressional Decision-Making and Budget Making</u>
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 9, 12 and 13.</p> | <p>VI <u>Congress and the Presidency</u>
Davidson and Oleszek, chapters 10 and 11.</p> <p>VII <u>Congress and National Security</u>
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 14.</p> <p>VIII <u>Case Study</u>
Price, <u>passim</u>.</p> <p>IX <u>Conclusion</u>
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 15.</p> |
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