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PSC 495.02: Congress in the Nineties

Patrick Williams

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Congress In The Nineties

A three (3) credit course

by Pat Williams

Political Science – 495 Sec. 02
4:10 PM to 6:30 PM Thursday
LA 337

Office:

Mr. Williams
Center for the Rocky Mountain West
Milwaukee Station, 2nd Floor
The University of Montana—Missoula
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-7700
e-mail: williams@crmw.org

Office Hours: Mutually arranged upon request.

Course Description: We will review the history, inner workings, procedures and issues of the U.S. Congress. We will apply particular emphasis to the House of Representatives in this 105th Congress. We will also consider Congressional activities of the past decade.

Class participation: We will discuss the week's assigned readings from the handouts and from either or both of the required texts. Our discussions will include the current activities of the Congress. The daily and weekly periodicals available through the Mansfield Library will facilitate the following of those Congressional activities.

Lectures by Mr. Williams or his leading class discussions will be a part of each class.

Our considerations of the 105th Congress will include discussions and readings related to the congressional process, particularly budget and appropriations. We will also discuss the year's issues, including the matters of a balanced budget, Social Security, Medicare and the critical western issues of land policy at the federal level. We will consider the relationship between the White House and the Congress. We may also review those activities of past Congresses in which Mr. Williams was specifically involved.

Because this class will follow the activities of the current Congress, our discussions and readings are not entirely predictable.

Requirements and Grading:

1. Mid terms	25%
2. Final exams	35%
3. Written Assignments	20%
4. Class attendance participation	20%

Attendance: Class participation accounts for a full twenty (20) percent of the grade, thus attendance is mandatory.

Required texts (available at The Bookstore):

1. Cohn, How Congress Works, 2nd edition.
2. Davidson & Oleszek, Congress Reconsidered, 6th edition.

How Congress Works will serve as the text that will anchor our class discussions concerning congressional procedure. Congress Reconsidered will also be assigned for class discussion.

Both texts and our discussions will be the basis for class examinations. Mr. Williams will provide handouts that will also be useful in class discussion.

Bibliography – Mr. Williams has limited resource books that are available:

Congressional Quarterly—Almanac, 1979-1995.
Congressional Quarterly—Politics in America, 1982-1996.
World Watch Institute—State of the World, 1984-1996.

Selected books on issues, biographies, Congress and its members (130+ volumes) are located in the library at the Center for the Rocky Mountain West, Milwaukee Station, 2nd Floor. These volumes include the resource books, belong to Mr. Williams and must be checked out and returned.

Extra credit may be assigned for book reviews or papers analyzing issues and Congressional responses.

Graduate Students: Each graduate student must meet with Mr. Williams to arrange their required extra component.

NOTE: March 10 is the last day to drop a course or change the grading option.