

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS POLS 4101/5101

Spring 2005
Dr. Caress

COURSE OUTLINE: The first part of this course will be taught with a traditional lecture/discussion format. The second and third parts of this class will be taught on-line using new technologies such as MyUWG and WebCT.

This course examines the structure and dynamics of the legislative branch of American government. While a major focus of this course is the United States Congress, state legislatures and the Georgia General Assembly are also examined in detail. This course will provide both a theoretical and pragmatic approach to the subject. It will look at legislatures as single institutions that perform vital functions, and also as collections of individually elected officeholders who represent their constituents.

This course is divided into four separate but related sections. The first section examines the roles of legislators and how they are elected to office. The second section concentrates on the internal workings of legislative bodies. The third section examines in detail several important legislative functions, and the final section focuses on the actual makeup and workings of the U.S. Congress and the Georgia General Assembly

LEARNING OUTCOMES Students will gain an understanding of the theories of representation, the evolution of legislative bodies, legislator election strategies and fund-raising methods. They will also develop a knowledge of legislative institutional behavior, legislative leadership functions and selection, as well as an appreciation of bill enactment, lobbying, and legislative-executive relations.

TEXTBOOKS:

CONGRESS AND ITS MEMBERS - Davidson & Oleszek (Buy from bookstore)

THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: REFORM OR REBUILD? Zimmerman & Rule
(On reserve in Library)

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be three exams - two midterms and a final. The midterms will be each worth 20% of the total grade and the final will be worth 25%. There also will be a field project or a written paper worth 15% There will be on-line questions assigned weekly beginning March 22 which will be worth 20% of the total grade. Details of the project or paper and the on-line questions will be discussed in class.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Week 1. Davidson 1,
Week 2. “ 2,
Week 3. “ 4,

Week 4. “ 3,
Week 5. “ 5,

1st Midterm February 15th

Week 6. Davidson 6 Zimmerman 14
Week 7. “ 7
Week 8. “ 8 & 9

Week 9. Davidson 15,
Week 10. Zimmerman 11, 12
2nd EXAM - 3/15

Spring Break 3/21-25 On-Line Starts 3/29

Week 11, Davidson 10
Week 12 Davidson 11.
Week 13 Davidson 12
Week 14.. Davidson 13 & 14

. Class project and papers due- April. 21th

Week 15 Zimmerman 17
Week 16 Zimmerman 18

Final Exam - May 10