PS3331: Congressional Politics
Spring 2014
Monday & Wednesday 12:30-1:45pm SSB 411

Brian Fogarty
800 Tower
fogartyb@umsl.edu
(314) 516-5520
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 11-12:15pm in 800 Tower and by appointment

OBJECTIVES
The U.S. Congress is considered one of the most important democratic institutions in the world. Yet, it is quite unique compared to other industrialized countries’ legislative bodies. This course serves as a broad overview of Congress and the role of the legislative branch in American democracy. Two central questions that we will deal with are (1) what does Congress do and why, and (2) what the various ways of studying Congress? While we will deal with the nuts and bolts of Congress, we will also consider how the strategic preferences of members of Congress shape and create national policy. Finally, this course includes a simulation of Congress in order for students to receive hands-on learning about the legislative process.

GATEWAY IS YOUR FRIEND
I will regularly update class information on the website for the class on MyGateway (http://mygateway.usml.edu).

READING MATERIAL
Class readings will be drawn from three sources:


    Newspaper articles (will be posted on MyGateway at the start of each week).

REQUIREMENTS
It is important to keep up with class readings and you should generally aim to complete the weekly readings before we start a new topic. In addition to the readings, you will also be responsible for the following:
1. **Article Quizzes**: (combine for 20% of your final grade)

2. **Simulation Assignments & Exercises**: (combine for 20%)

3. **Midterm**: (worth 25%)

4. **Final**: (worth 35%)

**L A T E   A S S I G N M E N T S  &  M A K E U P S**

Late assignments will be discounted one-third a letter grade each day it is late. For example, if you receive a B on an assignment and it is a day later then it is a B-, etc.

Makeup exams and quizzes will only be given when there is an emergency such as a death in the family or severe illness. Only one day and time will be scheduled for all those requiring a makeup.

**A C A D E M I C   H O N E S T Y**

Cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an exam, for the course, or expulsion from the University. Refer to the University’s Student Code of Conduct for a detailed look at definitions or and sanctions for cheating.

**E M A I L   E T I Q U E T T E**

University policy dictates that instructors can only communicate with students’ UMSL email accounts and not gmail, yahoo, etc. accounts. In your emails, please include introduction (e.g., ‘Hello Prof Fogarty’) and closing (e.g., ‘Thanks’) statements. It might be wise for you to add a ‘signature’ statement to your emails so that faculty and staff can easily identify you.

**C L A S S   S C H E D U L E**

Week of 1/20: Introduction
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 1

Week of 1/27: Evolution of the Modern Congress
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 2

Week of 2/3: Apportionment, Redistricting, & Candidates
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 3
**Article Quiz 1 – Wednesday 2/5**

Week of 2/10: Apportionment, Redistricting, & Candidates
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 3

Week of 2/17: Primaries, Campaigns, & the Media
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapters 3 & 4
Article Quiz 2 – Monday 2/17

Week of 2/24:
Elections & the Role of Money
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 4

Week of 3/3:
Representation
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 5

Midterm – Wednesday 3/5

Week of 3/10:
Leaders & Parties in Congress; Committees
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 6-7

Assignment 1 – Wednesday 3/12

Week of 3/17:
Leaders & Parties in Congress; Committees
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 6-7

Simulation Exercise 1 – Wednesday 3/19
Article Quiz 3 – Monday 3/17

Week of 3/24:
No Class – Spring Break

Week of 3/31:
Congressional Rules & Procedures
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 8

Week of 4/7:
Congressional Rules & Procedures
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 8

Article Quiz 4 – Wednesday 4/9
Assignment 2 – Wednesday 4/9

Week of 4/14:
Congressional Voting & Legislative Bargaining
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 9

Simulation Exercise 2 – Monday 4/14

Week of 4/21:
Congress & the President
Davidson, Oleszek, & Lee: Chapter 10

Assignment 3 – Monday 4/21
Article Quiz 5 – Monday 4/21
Simulation Exercise 3 – Wednesday 4/23

Week of 4/28:
Catch-up & Review

Week of 5/5:
It’s Even Worse discussion

It’s Even Worse Quiz (Quiz 6) – Thursday 5/7

Final – Wednesday 5/14 from 10-noon in SSB 411