

This is a 15-week online course. It starts August 30, 2017 and ends December 11, 2017.

Instructor:

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If you need to reach me immediately, please shoot me a text at the above phone number. If it is not urgent, e-mail me at the above address, or through the Canvas course website.



CONTACTING YOU:

The only way I have to contact you is via your Canvas e-mail. Please be sure to set this up immediately and to check it regularly. You can link your Canvas e-mail to your regular e-mail, or any of your social networking accounts, if you prefer. I will occasionally need to e-mail the entire class, or you individually, with important announcements, so it is very important that you set this up as soon as possible.

CONTACTING ME:

I would prefer that you e-mail me through the course website on Canvas. However, if needed, you may e-mail me at my *UWYO.edu* address, listed above. If you need to reach me immediately, please shoot me a text or call me at the above phone number. Do not hesitate to text or call if your communication needs an immediate answer.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course analyzes aspects of the U.S. Congress, including election of congressmen/women, the legislative process, congressional-presidential relations, and the influence of political parties, interest groups, and constituents on the legislative process and its outcome.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/GOALS

The intent of this course is to provide an overview of the structure, processes and policy outputs of the U.S. legislature. We will examine the internal structure and operations of Congress as an institution, including procedures, rules, party dynamics, and leadership norms. We also want to explore the dynamics of Congressional elections, and how these affect members' behavior and decisions both during the election and after, when the business of 'governing' begins.

Our national legislators wear two hats - they must both represent their individual constituencies, and work together to formulate national legislation and policies that affect us all. Yet, elected legislators are not the only players in the lawmaking process. Interest groups and their lobbyists are key players as well. Because of their crucial role, we will look closely at the various ways they contribute to the policy process and outputs of the legislative branch. Finally, we will examine the dynamics of the interaction between Congress, and two of the other institutions of government - the Executive and the Bureaucracy. The goal is for you to develop a better understanding of both the theory and practice of today's Congress in a complex world.

COURSE RESOURCES:

There is 1 text required for this class:

Davidson, Roger, Oleszek, Walter and Frances Lee. *Congress and Its Members, 15th Edition*. 2016.



Additional Readings and Assignments

Each week, you will find additional readings and required materials assigned in the week's unit assignment section. Always be sure you check for those early in the week, as they will often be related to the week's discussion.

Access to each week's materials

Access to each week's content begins every Sunday at noon and ends on Saturday at 11:59 pm.

However, students in the past have asked for access to ancillary materials early so they can get a head start on the reading, viewing of video, etc. The modules remain locked until Sunday, noon each week. Although I will not open the modules early, I will link the following week's ancillary materials in a module titled "Future Readings, Video, and Audio". Check there each week if you wish to access readings a week early to stay a bit ahead. The coming week's module will still remain locked until its scheduled unlock, but you will be able to access the materials.

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS:

Journals



It is expected that you through the class. I have these journals which you will find on Canvas in the designated module.

I have also provided a rubric which outlines grading criteria and expectations. Be sure to read and understand these clearly - only certain news sources are approved for use in these essays.

will follow the daily news as we proceed prepared a separate set of guidelines for

Microlectures

Most weeks there will be an Instructor presentation/microlecture related to the readings. The presentation will be focused on synthesis and expansion of the reading materials, but it is your responsibility to gain a basic understanding of the reading materials.

Quizzes



You will be required to semester. These quizzes multiple choice, fill in the based on the readings and all readings and listen to the presentation before you take the quiz.

complete 2 quizzes during the course of the will consist of approximately ten to fifteen blank, true/false and short answer questions presentations. You are expected to complete

Exams

There will be one mid-term and one final, both essay format. More will be posted on Canvas.



details

Discussions

There will be a variety Everyone is expected to discussions. At the most points you must post reply to someone You must make your week, and post on at least three different days. You must complete your postings by 11:59 pm every Saturday. A complete grading rubric of criteria for the discussions can be found on the course website under the Rubric content module.



of discussion topics and discussion activities. participate and you will be graded on these basic level, in order to earn any discussion one message and two replies (where you else's message) for each Discussion Topic. first posting by noon, Wednesday of each

Research Paper

Each student is expected to write an 8-10 page paper on a topic related to Congress. Examples of topics include examining a bill in terms of its origin, history and passage in the legislative process, comparing some aspect of two different Congresses, an examination of some of the rules and norms of Congress, etc. All topics must be cleared through me beforehand. Students will be assigned different due dates for their papers. All papers will be due by midnight on the assigned due date.



All topic proposals are due in the appropriate drop box by 11:59 pm., September 16. Your proposal needs to be at least one page. You may use bullets or other type of outline format. You should provide your proposed topic, the type of approach you intend to take to explore the topic (research methodology), its relevance to the larger course material, the list of sources you intend to use, and the conclusions/outcomes you are seeking in writing this paper. *Be sure to read the guidelines posted on the Canvas web site.*

You will find a link on the course website to a set of detailed guidelines both for writing a proposal, and for writing a research paper. There is also a set of criteria for grading the paper found under the Grading Rubrics module.

COURSE POLICIES:

Student Feedback/Communication

I welcome all feedback on the course. My preferred method of communication with individual students on this topic is via email. I will respond to email **within 24 hours** (Monday - Friday).



Submitting Electronic Files

All electronic files must be submitted in .doc, docx, pdf, xls or xlsx format.

All assignments must be submitted to the drop boxes on the course website. **I will not accept assignments via e-mail.**

Late Work

LATE WORK DUE TO PROCRASTINATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. LATE WORK DUE TO LEGITIMATE EMERGENCY MAY BE ACCEPTED.

Late work due to technology failure will not be accepted. Plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time to submit your work early in case of computer or learning platform failure.



If you experience a legitimate emergency which will prevent you from completing required coursework on time, I expect you to communicate with me at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Please state the nature of the emergency, and when you expect to turn in the coursework. A legitimate emergency is defined by me as temporary military service, a death in the immediate family, major illness or court appearances and jury duty. Other things may come up and we can discuss these on a case-by-case basis. If you need to reach me immediately, feel free to text me at the number listed at the top of the syllabus.

The due date and time associated with each quiz, discussion, exam and assignment are stated clearly in the Course Schedule and/or in the Unit Schedules on the course website.

Expectations of Time Required to Succeed in This Class

As with any college class, there are expectations from both the student and the teacher regarding the number of hours spent 'in the classroom' and number of hours spent doing homework 'outside the classroom'. In order to succeed in this class, it is expected that you will spend at least 3 hours online every week. In addition, you should expect to spend 6-9 hours each week 'off-line' completing assignments and readings.

Although this is an online class, it is NOT self-paced. There will be assignments due each week by specific times and dates. Each week's module will be available at noon on Sunday, and will be open until 11:59 pm, Saturday. Once the module is locked, no further submittals will be allowed.

THE DUE DATE AND TIME ASSOCIATED WITH EACH QUIZ, DISCUSSION, EXAM AND ASSIGNMENT ARE STATED CLEARLY IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE AND IN THE UNIT SCHEDULES.

HELP WITH WYOWEB AND CANVAS

If you experience technical problems with WyoWeb or the course website, below is a link that will take you to the Outreach School's student support page. It contains a wide variety of phone numbers and e-mails to use when you experience technical difficulties, as well as useful tips on how to troubleshoot some problems yourself. Should you experience problems, please contact the UW Outreach support staff, and then contact me if this will affect your ability to complete your assignment.

<https://help.instructure.com/home> (Canvas) or <https://support.uwyo.edu/> (WyoWeb)



Honor Pledge

Students will be held accountable to the Honor Pledge which they have agreed to: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

Academic Dishonesty

The Instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined in the University's Code. Please read by following the link below:

http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/uw-reg-6-802.pdf

My response to proven academic dishonesty is an 'F' for the course.



Special Needs

"It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability."

[UW Outreach Students](#) | [University Disability Support Services](#) | [University of Wyoming](#)

Important Dates

[Calendar and Deadlines](#) | [Office of the Registrar](#) | [University of Wyoming](#)

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Research Paper Proposal: Due Saturday, September 16, 11:59 pm, drop box

Research Paper: Last name starts with the letter N-Z: Saturday, November 18, 11:59 pm

Last name starts with the letter A-M: Saturday, December 2, 11:59 pm

Discussions: Due by 11:59 pm Saturday each week, unless otherwise noted in the Unit schedule



- Journals: 1st journal due Saturday, Sept. 16, 11:59 pm; 2nd journal due Saturday, October 7, 11:59 pm; 3rd journal due Saturday, Oct. 28, 11:59 pm; 4th journal due, Saturday, Nov. 18, 11:59 pm;
- Midterm: Due Saturday, Oct. 14, 11:59 pm
- Final: Due date and time TBD
- Quizzes: Due dates are posted on the course website and the syllabus schedule

GRADING:

Your grade will be based on the following:

Component
Midterm Exam (15%)
Final Exam (15%)
Discussions (25%)
Journals (15%)
Quizzes (10%)
Research Paper (20%)

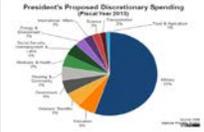
The University of Wyoming in Fall 2014 implemented a new grading system that allows instructors, *at their discretion*, to award plus and minus grades as well as the standard letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F. This policy is detailed in UW Regulation 6-722: http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/uw-reg-6-722.pdf. Your grade will be calculated using the following scale:

Grade	Percentage Range
A	100 - 90%
B	89 - 80%
C	79 - 70%
D	69 - 60%

SCHEDULE:

WEEK	TOPIC	COURSEWORK	DUE THIS WEEK
1 Aug. 30-Sept. 2	 <p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen to the microlecture ✓ Post to the Introduction Discussions ✓ Read, "Is America Still Safe For Democracy?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussions
2 Sept. 3-9	<p>Design and Evolution of Congress</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read ch. 2 in Davidson, et al ✓ Read '<i>The Place of Congress in the Constitutional Order</i>' ✓ Listen to microlecture ✓ Post to the discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion
3 Sept. 10-16	<p>Getting there: Congressional Elections</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read ch. 3, Davidson et al ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to Discussion ✓ Submit 1st news journal ✓ Turn in research paper proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1st News Journal, 11:59 pm, Sept. 16 ✓ Research proposal due, 11:59 pm, Sept. 16 ✓ Discussion
4 Sept. 17-23	<p>The Dynamics of Elections: The Role of Money</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read chapter 4 Davidson et al. ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Take Quiz #1 ✓ Post/Reply to Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quiz #1, 11:59 pm, Sept. 23 ✓ Discussion
5 Sept. 24-30	<p>The Role of Media in Congressional Elections and Public Policy</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read <i>News and the Visual Framing of Elections, found on Canvas</i> ✓ Watch Microlecture ✓ Watch embedded videos on Canvas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion

<p>6 Oct. 1-7</p>	<p>Being There: Hill Styles and Home Styles</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read Chapter 5 in Davidson et al ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to Discussion ✓ Turn in 2nd news journal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion ✓ 2nd News journal due, Oct. 7, 11:59 pm
<p>7 Oct. 8-14</p>	<p>Leaders and Parties in Congress</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read Chapter 6, Davidson et al ✓ Read Ch. 1, D&O, "The New World of U.S. Senators" ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to Discussion ✓ Take midterm exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion ✓ Midterm due, Oct. 14, 11:59 pm
<p>8 Oct.15-21</p>	<p>Congressional Committees</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read Chapter 7, Davidson et al ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion
<p>9 Oct. 22-28</p>	<p>Rules and Procedures</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read chapter 8, Davidson, et al. ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Write journal entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion ✓ 3rd Journal, 11:59 pm, Oct. 28
<p>10 Oct. 29-Nov. 4</p>	<p>Decision-making in Congress</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read chapter 9 in Davidson, et al ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion
<p>11 Nov. 5-11</p>	<p>Congress and the President</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read ch. 10 in Davidson, et al ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to discussion ✓ Quiz #2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion ✓ Quiz #2, 11:59 pm, Nov. 11

<p>12 Nov. 12-18</p>	<p>Congress and Interest Groups</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read Ch. 13, Davidson, et al ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to discussion ✓ Write Journal Entry ✓ N-Z, Research paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion ✓ 4th Journal, Nov. 18, 11:59 pm ✓ N-Z Research paper due, Nov. 18, 11:59
<p><i>Thanksgiving Break</i> Nov. 22-25</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use Monday and Tuesday for 'catch-up' days 	
<p>13 Nov. 26-Dec. 2</p>	<p>The Politics of budgets</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read chapter 14 in Davidson, et al ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to discussion ✓ A-M, Research Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion ✓ A-M Research paper due, Dec. 2, 11:59 pm
<p>14 Dec. 3-9</p>	<p>Congress and National Security</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read chapter 15, Davidson, et al ✓ Watch microlecture ✓ Post/Reply to discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion
<p>15 Dec. 10 - 16 Final Exam Due</p>	 <p>Wrap up and Finals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read Chapter 16, Davidson et al ✓ Post/Reply to wrap-up and de-brief discussion ✓ Complete final Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussion ✓ Turn in Final exam, Dec. 16, 11:59 pm



The above schedule-at-a-glance is intended as a guideline only.

In addition to the assignments and materials listed there, you will also find a wide variety of articles, movies, radio programs, documentaries and YouTube movies assigned throughout the semester. These are in addition to the assignments listed above. They will be posted, with links, in the individual unit modules under 'Assignments'. Always be certain you check the Canvas weekly assignment content modules as your final reference.

The syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.