

**Masters in Legislative Affairs**  
**PSC 222--EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS**

Spring Semester 2007  
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This course addresses the perennial conflicts between the White House and Congress. The Constitution has set the basic framework of power and over the centuries patterns of power and precedent have developed. This course looks at the political and constitutional aspects of Congressional-Executive relations, the institutional settings, the forces of weak and strong leadership, and other dynamics that make up this complex, fascinating relationship.

**HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED**

The final grade for this course will be determined by two assignments:

- A 25-page research paper on a contemporary issue of legislative-executive relations, counting as 70 percent of your grade.
- A take-home final exam, with your answer approximately 12-15 pages long, counting 30 percent of your grade.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Please purchase the following books from the George Washington University bookstore:

- Collier, Kenneth. *Between the Branches* [paperback, 1997]  
Fisher, Louis. *Constitutional Conflicts between Congress and the President*, 4th ed. [paperback, 1997]  
Jones, Charles. *Separate But Equal Branches*, 2nd ed. [paperback, 1999]  
Thurber, James, ed. *Rivals for Power*, 3rd ed. [paperback, 2006]  
Kenneth R. Mayer, *With the Stroke of a Pen* [paperback, 2001]

Web-based required readings (all found via Blackboard, [www.blackboard.gwu.edu](http://www.blackboard.gwu.edu)).

- U.S. Constitution, Arts. I and II  
Ford's pardon of President Nixon (1974)  
*INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919 (1983)  
*U.S. v. Nixon*, 418 U.S. 683 (1974)  
*Morrison v. Olson*, 487 U.S. 654 (1988)  
House Judiciary Committee, Articles of Impeachment (Nixon)  
House Judiciary Committee, Articles of Impeachment (Clinton)  
*Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense* (2006)  
Robert J. Spitzer, "The Constitutionality of the Presidential Line-Item Veto," *Political Science Quarterly* 112 (2) (Summer 1997): 261-283.  
American Bar Association, *Task Force on Presidential Signing Statements and the Separation of Powers Doctrine* (2006).

## BLACKBOARD

Our course has its own website, which will be our principal source of information and communications. I will post assignments, hyperlink readings and e-mail you through our website. We will be able to communicate with each other much more efficiently. Blackboard is found at [www.blackboard.gwu.edu](http://www.blackboard.gwu.edu).

## SYLLABUS

### CONSTITUTIONAL SETTING

Readings: Fisher, *Constitutional Conflicts*, ch. 1  
Jones, *Separate but Equal Branches*, part 1 (chs. 1-5)  
U.S. Constitution, Articles I and II

### DIVIDED DEMOCRACY AND THE NEW LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Readings: Thurber, ch 1: "Introduction to Presidential-Congressional Rivalry, "  
Thurber, ch. 2: "Partisan Polarization, Politics, and the Presidency" by James Pfiffner  
Fisher, *Politics of Shared Power*, ch. 2

### CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS, THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS

Readings: Thurber, ch. 4: "The Impact of Campaigns on Presidential-Congressional Relations," by Richard E. Cohen.

### CONGRESSIONAL-PRESIDENTIAL RELATIONS

Readings: Collier, *Between the Branches*, entire book  
Jones, part 2 (chs. 6-11). Read in tandem with the Collier book: i.e., read the chapters on Reagan together, Bush together, etc.  
Thurber, ch. 3: "Presidential Leadership of Congress," by Stephen J. Wayne  
Thurber, ch. 6: "The Presidency and Congressional Time," by Roger H. Davidson  
Thurber, ch. 7: "The Legislative Presidency in Political Time," by Richard S. Conley

### EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Readings: Mayer, *With the Stroke of a Pen*, entire book

### THE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL POWERS

Readings: Fisher, *Constitutional Conflicts*, ch. 2.

### VETOES AND SIGNING STATEMENTS

Readings: Fisher, *Constitutional Conflicts*, ch. 5  
*INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919 (1983)  
Robert J. Spitzer, "The Constitutionality of the Presidential Line-Item Veto," *Political Science Quarterly* 112 (2) (Summer 1997): 261-283.  
American Bar Association, *Task Force on Presidential Signing Statements and the Separation of Powers Doctrine* (2006).

## IMPEACHMENT AND INDEPENDENT PROSECUTORS

Readings: Fisher, *Constitutional Conflicts*, ch. 6.  
*U.S. v. Nixon*, 418 U.S. 683 (1974)  
House Judiciary Committee, Articles of Impeachment (Nixon)  
Ford's Pardon of Nixon  
*Morrison v. Olson*, 487 U.S. 654 (1988)  
House Judiciary Committee, Articles of Impeachment (Clinton)

## BUDGETS AND POWER OF PURSE

Readings: Fisher, *Constitutional Conflicts*, ch. 7.  
Thurber, ch. 19: "Politics of the Federal Budget Process," by Leon E. Panetta.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Readings: Thurber, ch. 11: "The Making of U.S. Foreign Policy: The Roles of the President and Congress over Four Decades," by Lee H. Hamilton.

## TREATIES, EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS AND WAR POWERS

Readings: Fisher, *Constitutional Conflicts*, chs. 8, 9.

## BUSH AND CONGRESS

Readings: Thurber, ch. 10: "Ending a Transatlantic Trade War," by Mark J. Oleszek and Walter J. Oleszek  
Thurber, ch. 12: "Justifying War against Iraq," by Louis Fisher.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Readings: Thurber, ch. 5: "Successful Influence: Managing Legislative Affairs in the Twenty-First Century, " by Gary J. Andres and Patrick Griffin  
*Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense* (2006)

## **Examination**